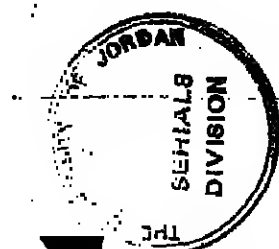


Israeli jets raid south of Beirut

NAAMEH, Lebanon (R) — Israeli aircraft blasted Palestinian positions south of Beirut Wednesday wounding three guerrillas and a civilian, Palestinian sources said. They said four Israeli warplanes fired four missiles at a tunnel used by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, in hills near Naameh, south of Beirut. One missile slammed into the entrance of a tunnel while two others hit the road leading to it. The fourth hit a house 200 metres away. "A missile hit my house. It has not exploded yet," a terrified civilian told a guerrilla commander named Jibril. The commander ordered his men to evacuate the area. After the 45-minute raid, Israeli planes again flew over the scene, sending men, women and children fleeing from their nearby homes for safety. The Palestinian hills above the village of Naameh are the main stronghold for the PFLP-GC in Lebanon. Tens of thousands of the hills have been target to several Israeli strikes. Palestinian guerrillas and Lebanese militiamen manning anti-aircraft guns and shoulder-mounted heat-seeking SAM-7 missiles were on alert fearing another air strike.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Egypt denies building fence

CAIRO (R) — Egypt denied Wednesday Israeli reports it was building a fence along the border with the Zionist state. It said it was not only mending an old one. "This is not true. There has been a barbed wire fence along the border for years. All we are doing now is mending the damaged parts," a senior military official told Reuters. Israeli army radio said Wednesday about 1,000 unarmed Egyptian soldiers had arrived at the Red Sea resort of Tabu to begin building the fence. It said Egypt had informed the Israeli army about the project but did not say why it decided on the move. The Egyptian official, who asked not to be identified, said small groups of soldiers were patrolling the 230-km border with Israel to pinpoint areas that needed repair. "We don't want any problems or anyone to infiltrate here or there," the official added.

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Crown Prince briefs King Gustaf on Mideast situation

AMMAN (Petra) — A general review of the situation in the Middle East region and environmental and population issues resulting from continued Israeli occupation of Arab land were reviewed at a meeting here Wednesday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Sweden's King Carl Gustaf in a meeting attended by Queen Silvia of Sweden.

At the meeting, which was held at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan presented a briefing on the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of Israel's repressive measures and Jewish settlement plans.

Prince Hassan pointed to the continuous drain of Arab resources and the complex situation in the occupied Arab lands as a result of Israel's intransigent position and its rejection of all bids to establish a just and lasting settlement to the Palestine problem.

Prince Hassan also referred to the adverse effects of Israel's occupation on Jordan over the past four decades.

Referring to the economic situation in Jordan Prince Hassan

explained the Jordanian government's economic restructuring programmes, which, he said, are now bearing fruit.

He referred to Jordan's central geographical position in the Middle East and within the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and said Jordan can play a leading role in regional and international cooperation in general and through cooperation with Sweden in particular.

Attending the meeting was Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the official Swedish delegation accompanying the royal couple on their visit to Jordan.

Banquet

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday attended banquet hosted by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker in honour of King Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

Present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, royal family members, senior officials as well as the Swedish foreign minister and his wife.



UMM KAIS VISIT... Their Majesties King Hussein and King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden Wednesday visit Umm Kais (see page 3)

King holds talks with Andersson

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday met with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson at the Royal Court and discussed with him the major issues on the Arab scene, mainly the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese crisis and the situation between Iraq and Iran.

King Hussein stressed that Israel had to accept that the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) and the Arab side had done all that was possible to establish a comprehensive peace in the region.

He pointed out that the tension in the region would come to an end only through an international peace conference attended by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO. Andersson praised the King's

efforts and continuous role in trying to put an end to the Middle East problem since 1967.

Attending the meeting was Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received Andersson in his office in the presence of Qasem, and Ibrahim Izziddin.

Mubarak: Arafat supports Israeli-Palestinian dialogue

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, appealing to Israelis over their leaders' heads, said Wednesday that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had accepted his proposal for direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In a two-hour interview with Israeli journalists in Cairo broadcast in part on Israeli radio, Mubarak said:

"I call on Israel to tell its government to agree with the principle of territories for peace. Don't you have to give me something for peace?"

"Arafat agrees to a dialogue with two delegations, only you Israelis are complicating the issue, and I emphasise this."

He added: "Arafat has a majority, but he has opposition from other organisations and from his own organisation (Fatah)."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has rejected an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip leading to limited self-rule.

But Arafat has not publicly responded to 10 Egyptian points to clarify the plan. PLO officials have insisted that if talks are convened, Palestinians from outside the territories must participate.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said the PLO had every right to choose who will speak for Palestinians in any Egyptian-arranged peace dialogue between them and Israel.

The remark was virtually certain to inflame tempers in Israel and compound existing difficulties in Egyptian-Israeli exchanges that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had accepted his proposal for direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Abdul Meguid also disclosed that he and Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will meet jointly with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in New York shortly.

The Egyptian suggestions have split Israel's coalition cabinet. The Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is largely against them, while Finance Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party is in favour.

On Tuesday, Shamir specifically rejected vital points in the Mubarak plan. These were basing peace talks on the idea of Israel's trading occupied land for peace, including in the delegations Palestinians from outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza and giving residents of Arab Jerusalem the vote in elections proposed by Shamir.

Egypt sent its proposals to Israel informally in July and officially last week.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had extensive talks with Mubarak in Cairo Monday on the proposals. Rabin said afterwards they agreed on an Egyptian-arranged dialogue but differed on composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Abdul Meguid brought Arab ambassadors up-to-date in Cairo Wednesday. After their meeting,

Ambassador Al Amin Abdul Latif Al Amin of Sudan briefed reporters in his capacity as dean of the Arab diplomatic corps.

"The choice of the Palestinian delegation is the absolute right of the PLO," Amin quoted Abdul Meguid as telling the envoys.

It was the first public specific mention of the PLO in connection with Mubarak's initiative.

Egyptian officials said proposals sent to Israel spoke only of "Palestinians" without mentioning the PLO by name.

Shamir said Tuesday: "There is no justified place for the Arab demand to include residents from abroad."

Likud sees this as tantamount to negotiating with the PLO.

In an indication of the internal Fatah opposition to Arafat, the PLO's foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoum, dismissed the Egyptian initiative in an interview published Wednesday.

"It's an Egyptian initiative which has nothing to do with us," he told the Tunisian government newspaper Al Sahafa, adding that Arafat was only shutting between Tunis and Cairo to mediate between Egypt and Libya.

In the Cairo interview, Mubarak urged Israelis to "act with reason and trust in God."

"You Israelis are like people knocking their heads against the wall," he said. "Don't you know that the Palestinians in the territories can do nothing without a green light from Palestinians on the outside?"

Direct dialogue next step in peace process — Andersson

By Suhair Obaidat
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel can survive neither as a democracy nor as a "Jewish state" without making peace with the Palestinian people and the logical step at this point in time was direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said Wednesday.

Andersson, who has played a behind-the-scenes role in efforts to advance Middle East peace efforts, said the quest for an Arab Israeli settlement was "in a very crucial stage," but he would not reveal any detail of his talks with regional leaders, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, with whom he met earlier this week in Cairo, or what exactly did Stockholm plan to contribute to the peace process.

"It would be very dangerous to say too much," he said. "This is the time for silent diplomacy."

However, he maintained, "very much is happening... in a positive direction" towards peace. But, he emphasised, "I am not a mediator... Sweden has a unique position, we have no interest but making peace, and all parties know this."

According to Andersson, the Middle East peace process took the first step with the dramatic turn in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) strategy

announced in Algiers last year, the second step was the initiation of dialogue between the PLO and the United States. The third step, he said, should be direct Israeli-Palestinian talks as proposed by Mubarak.

"It is high time now — otherwise the situation can be very dangerous and risky — to take the third step, and the sooner the better. Or else, the extreme forces on both sides can gain ground," he said.

The foreign minister said the Palestinian side to the talks should include residents of the occupied territories as well those outside. "The only way to go is to include representatives of Palestinians both from the occupied territories and outside it," he said. Israel has said that it would only negotiate with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

According to Andersson, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of an Egyptian initiative over his proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, "can cause problems" and harm peace efforts.

Andersson said the Swedish position was that there was a need for an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, "because the two parties do not talk to each other."

"There must be some guarantees from the international world..." he added.

Andersson said elections under international supervision in the occupied territories could be a new step in the peace process, but there must be a clear link between the elections and the final status of the territories.

He stressed that the 10-point Egyptian initiative over the election proposal was not a "plan, but rather a clarification (which) can constitute a basis for discussions between Israel and the Palestinians."

"The ball is in the hands of the Israeli cabinet, and its too early to say in what direction they will throw the ball," he said. "I hope in the right direction."

"Many Israeli politicians have made the same analysis," he added. "They are quite aware of their situation. I think there is a positive mood inside the Israeli cabinet, but it is up to them right now."

As part of a series of meetings with both sides of the Palestinian problem, Sweden has "promising discussions" with the Labour Party in Israel, Andersson said noting that the party's leader, Shimon Peres, had visited Stockholm in June.

Earlier Wednesday, Andersson met with PLO Executive Members Mohammed Milhem, Abdul Razaq Al Yahya and Bishop Elias Khouri and "two other educational experts" whom the minister did not identify.

Aoun builds rightist response to plan

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's army chief worked Wednesday to build a united rightist response to an Arab plan he sees as offering peace at the price of his defeat.

General Michel Aoun, in a bunker below the ruins of Beirut's presidential palace, met political leaders of the besieged Christian enclave to measure their reactions to the Arab League plan announced Saturday.

Political analysts said the 53-year-old general, who proclaimed a "war of liberation" in March to expel Syria's 33,000 troops from Lebanon, was seeking Christian support before officially responding to the peace proposals.

Syria and its Lebanese allies demand that Aoun accept the plan as package, deferring withdrawal of Syrian troops until after political reforms that give the Muslims an equal say in Lebanon's Christian-dominated political system. Sporadic shelling was reported across Beirut overnight, but there were no casualties.

The Lebanese Front, a coalition of rightist parties and militias including the hardline Lebanese Forces, Wednesday welcomed two of the plan's features — a ceasefire and an end to a sea blockade of the Christian enclave.

Most Christian deputies who met Aoun also said some points of the plan were welcome while others needed to be clarified.

Aoun has told Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi he was willing to accept a ceasefire and an end of the blockade.

But he has demanded written Arab guarantees that Syrian

troops would withdraw if he accepted the entire blueprint to build a new Lebanon from the ashes of its 14-year-old civil war.

A cautious calm prevailed in Beirut Wednesday as Brahimi awaited a formal response from Aoun.

Police said five people were wounded in intermittent overnight clashes with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns between Aoun's units and gunners across Beirut's dividing green line.

Syrian troops, maintaining their blockade of the Christian coastline to prevent arms supplies from reaching Aoun's forces, shelled the ports of Jounieh and Byblos before midnight (2200 GMT Tuesday). No one was hurt in that shelling.

Overall toll stood at 926 people killed and 2,725 wounded in the confrontation, which broke out between Aoun's troops and an alliance of Syrian and Lebanese militias March 8.

Syria and Iran said Wednesday they had swung their weight behind the Arab plan to bring peace to Lebanon.

They issued a joint press statement after meetings in Iran between Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

"The Syrian and Iranian sides expressed support for efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Lebanon, lift blockades, open Beirut airport, form a committee to supervise the ceasefire and monitor ships to prevent the entry of arms," said the statement.

These were the main points of the peace plan presented by the Arab League committee.

Bomb may have caused air crash in Sahara

PARIS (Agencies) — A French airliner which crashed with 171 people in the Sahara Desert may have been blown apart in mid-air by a bomb, the airline UTA said Wednesday.

The Paris-bound DC-10 disintegrated soon after takeoff on Tuesday from N'Djamena, capital of Chad, and the airline said sabotage was the probable cause.

Aviation authorities searching the crash area, a remote, moon-like rocky wasteland, said they believed no one survived.

It was the world's third DC-10 crash within two months. "The (large) area over which debris has been found gives weight to the theory of an explosion at high altitude, which in all probability leads one to suspect a criminal attack," Michel Fricot, chief spokesman for the airline Union des Transports Aeriens, told reporters.

"If there had been a very serious and violent problem on board, unless it was an explosion or the plane suddenly and completely disintegrated, there would be several seconds or minutes, probably tens of minutes, for the crew to lose altitude or reestablish radio contact," he said.

The UTA said the company had received an anonymous call from a man claiming responsibility on behalf of the shadowy group Islamic Jihad. It could not be verified.

UTA said the call came about midnight, but that the airline was not in a position to judge its authenticity and had informed the French Foreign Ministry.

The Islamic Jihad is a group that claims to hold several Western hostages in Lebanon.

A UTA spokeswoman said earlier the plane had given no may-day emergency signal before losing radio contact.

"The theory of technical failure is very unlikely," she said. "Another theory is that of a

bomb or some device, which can be seen as more likely."

All 156 passengers and 15 crew aboard the flight were feared dead.

"There are probably no survivors," said military officials, citing reports from French army bases in Chad.

French military transport planes carrying doctors and first aid workers were on their way to the desert crash site 650 kilometres northwest of N'Djamena, ready to be parachuted in with medical supplies.

French paratroopers in the Chad capital set out by helicopter and the Niger army was flying over the inhospitable region in search of a possible landing spot, the UTA spokeswoman said. Niger also dispatched two columns of troops to the site.

France's Transport Ministry said four civil aviation experts were heading for the crash scene and would try to locate the flight

recorder.

Most of the passengers were Africans, but some U.S. oil workers for Exxon Corporation and Italian and Swiss nationals were also believed on board. French government spokesman Louis Le Penec said 31 French citizens were on the flight.

Chadian Planning Minister Soumalla Mahamat and Bonnie Pugh, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Chad, were both on the passenger list, as were two Swiss clergymen — Monsignor Gabriel Balet, bishop of Moundou in southern Chad and Monsignor Gervais Achy, superior of the Capuchin Order in Lucerne.

On July 19 this year a United Airlines DC-10 crashed at Sioux City in Iowa, killing 112 people. Eight days later 74 died when a Korean Air DC-10 crashed in fog near the airport at Tripoli, Libya.

The UTA plane, missing for 18 hours, was spotted north of Lake

Chad, in the tenebre desert by a French military transport plane combing the arid scheduled flight path.

Experts said the zone, a desolate wilderness of sand and rock, would be nearly impossible to get to by land. "It's one of the hardest terrains I've ever experienced," said Georges Lavallet, of the National Geographic Institute.

The DC-10 disappeared shortly after taking off from N'Djamena, where it had taken on passengers and crew. The pilot radioed N'Djamena airport 20 minutes after takeoff and told the control tower he would radio again 20 minutes later. That was the last word from flight UT 772.

If sabotage is confirmed, it will be the second criminal attack on a UTA plane. One of the airline's DC-8s was the target of a bombing in March 1984 in which one person died.



An elder Palestinian (right) watches as Israeli soldiers check the identity of a Palestinian young man in occupied Jerusalem. A policeman (left) calls on a walkie-talkie to check the man's status as another policeman gestures for the photographer to stop taking pictures.

Big forest fire seen linked to uprising

BEIT OREN (Agencies) — A forest blaze which police said Arah arsonists started "ragged across a nature park here for the second day Wednesday, causing the worst fire damage in 21 months of the Palestinian uprising."

In Jerusalem's Old City, a Palestinian stabbed and lightly wounded an orthodox Jew. It was the latest in a series of knife attacks on Israelis.

The forest blaze destroyed some 2,000 acres of scrub woodland in the Carmel mountains south of Haifa — more than all previous fires started by activists in the revolt.

"It is an ecological holocaust," Dan Peri, deputy head of the nature reserve authority, told Israel Radio. "It will take at least 30 years to restore what has been destroyed here."

Police said they were holding six Arabs, some from the occupied territories, on suspicion of arson. They said they believed the fire was ignited for nationalist motives.

A previously unknown group calling itself "Direct Revenge" claimed responsibility for the sabotage Tuesday in a telephone call to Israel television's Arabic service.

"There is no vegetation... everything burned. I think this is a tragic and shocking site..." said Environmental Affairs Minister

Roni Milo, who visited the site Wednesday. "This will take dozens of years to re-cultivate."

Air force helicopters, assisted dozens of fire trucks in spraying water on several active blazes, radio stations reported. Firefighters said they hoped to control the blaze late Wednesday if winds died down.

Police evacuated the campus of Haifa University as well as residents in the area. Army radio said the dry winds brought the fire within 100 metres of Haifa's

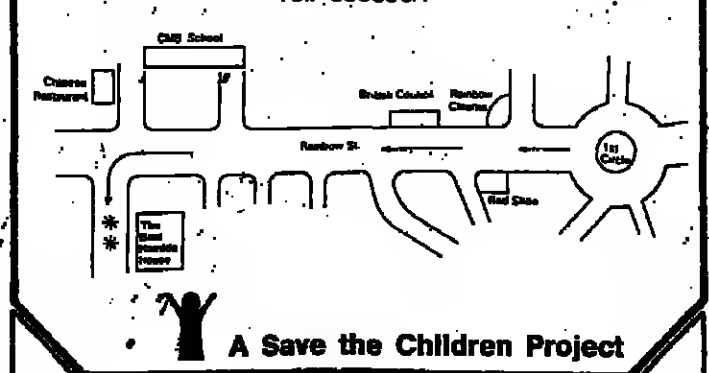
well-to-do Daniya neighbourhood.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, hospitals reported that troops shot and wounded at least 17 Palestinians in widespread clashes during the night, apparently sparked by the death of an Arab shot by plainclothes soldiers in a mosque.

Shops in Gaza closed in a spontaneous protest strike against the killing, which took the death toll in the uprising to 648 Palestinians.

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Beirut fishermen brave barrage to scoop up fish killed by shells

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

JOUNIEH, Lebanon — Most nights, a group of fishermen head out into the Mediterranean from Lebanon's besieged Falangist enclave to scoop up thousands of fish killed by Syrian shellfire.

They often are caught in the barrages themselves as the Syrians try to drive off cargo ships and tankers trying to run a blockade with supplies for the beleaguered people in the enclave.

"After a heavy round of shell-firing, the dead fish float like a carpet on the surface," said Scorp Ornakian, an Armenian fisherman.

"We usually wait a bit and then head for the 'carpet,'" he added. "Most times I collect about 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of fish every trip."

The Syrians have been besieging the Falangist enclave north of Beirut for six months. They shell the 45-kilometre stretch of coast the Falangists hold, and the waters off it, every day to enforce the blockade.

Health Ministry ecologist Pierre Malichev said the shelling has killed millions of fish and billions

of eggs, threatening to wipe out one of Lebanon's few natural resources.

"Our sea is dying," he said. "It's become rotten and polluted. Our marine life is nearing its end and we have no fish for next year."

"The sea is teeming with rotten fish which have attracted large carnivorous marine worms called Nereis which feed on them," he said.

Malichev said that fish that are not killed by the hundreds of exploding 130mm Howitzer shells and salvos of rockets are being poisoned by tetra, one of the explosive elements in the shells that is released into the water.

For most of the 500 Christian fishermen who made a living from the sea before the fighting erupted on March 8, the battles between the Syrian and Falangist forces led by Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun have ruined their livelihood.

"The shelling has killed our season," said Kevork Manoukian, a fisherman for more than 40 years. "Usually this time of the year is the best for us, when we make some money. But this year's been catastrophic."

"This is what our life is now," he said as he and his cronies sat around the shady courtyard of his house in Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of Beirut, smoking a hubbly-bubble.

His friend, Artin Khish-khishian, doesn't bother going out any more either after his nets were ripped by twisted rocket casings and lumps of shrapnel littering the shallow waters off Jounieh and the ancient port of Byblos a few kilometres north.

"I've had to repair my net three times and that cost more than 200 dollars," he said. "I decided to stop this 'shrapnel fishing' until there's lasting peace."

But some of the Christian fishermen risk their necks and their boats, 4.5-metre craft powered by outboard motors, to put to sea to haul in the fish killed by the shelling.

The Syrian barrages often catch them unawares as well and police said several have been wounded. So far none has been killed, but there have been many close calls.

Kevork Manoukian said that on one recent nocturnal trip "it looked quiet so I dropped my

net."

"Then the next minute a shell hit about 100 metres away from my boat. I ditched my net and made it for the shore in panic as more shells exploded around me."

Ornakian and around 75 other fishermen regularly go out under cover of darkness for catches not much bigger than those they were netting before the fighting erupted.

But the price of fish has doubled to around 5,000 pounds (\$10) a kilogramme in recent months.

With fish in short supply in the besieged Falangist enclave, Ornakian and the others reckon that the \$250 they make off each trip is worth the risk.

Muslim fishermen have been banned from the waters off Beirut, where the Syrians have deployed batteries of long-range artillery along the waterfront in shell the Falangist coastline.

But the Muslims are able to fish south of Beirut for 80 kilometres down the coast to the ancient port of Tyre, where the biggest danger they face is an occasional prowling Israeli gunboat.



An Afghan rebel sits in a trench leaning on his assault rifle prior to an attack on Jalalabad Airport.

Bhutto: Afghan king's return 'premature'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said it would be "premature" to talk of a return of the former King of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah.

She said in an interview that for the present, Pakistan would continue to support the rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG), despite its flaws.

"Some people feel that the AIG has perhaps not lived up to the exaggerated expectations that were held at the time of the Soviet withdrawal and are thinking of alternatives," she said.

"But as far as we in Pakistan are concerned, that is premature and the AIG is the best framework with which to proceed for the time being. To talk of King Zahir Shah at this time would be a bit premature."

Bhutto said fighting between the Mujahideen guerrillas and the Kabul government had increased and she expected this to continue.

The AIG was formed in Rawalpindi last February after the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops. It still operates out of Pakistan.

Many Afghans, both side and outside Afghanistan, support the idea of a neutral, interim government, headed by Zahir Shah, to bridge the gap between President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party and the Mujahideens.

The Washington Post newspaper

quoted the 74-year-old king, overthrown in 1973 after a 40-year reign, as saying he was prepared to return to lead an interim government to end the 11-year-old civil war.

A U.S. diplomat visited the king in Rome earlier this month, sparking off speculation in Pakistan of a new initiative to bring him back.

Bhutto said the U.S. contact was aimed at winning Zahir Shah's support for the interim government. She made clear that Pakistan, which gives the guerrillas diplomatic support and funnels Western arms to them, still backed their government.

"While we recognise it is not broad-based enough, we do believe it is still the best framework," she said.

It had the flexibility to expand, bringing in Iran-based guerrillas, exiles and Muslims still living in Afghanistan, she said.

"We have urged our friends in the AIG, and continue to do so, that it is essential for them to broaden their base, to include commanders within Afghanistan, to make public their policies, internal and external," she said.

"Also we have told them that the most effective way to demonstrate that one is a government is to work in cohesion," she said.

Tehran moves to improve foreign ties

NICOSIA (AP) — A flurry of diplomatic activity in Tehran has appeared to indicate Iran was accelerating efforts to patch up relations with Gulf Arab neighbours and the West, seeking to end a decade-long isolation.

But two radical newspapers sharply criticised statements advocating reconciliation with Saudi Arabia.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Francois Scheer, director-general of the French Foreign Ministry, as saying two days of talks in Tehran were "fruitful and constructive."

Before leaving the Iranian capital, Scheer, the broadcast said, called for regular diplomatic exchanges at short intervals beginning next month.

Franco-Iranian relations have been soured by the issue of a \$1-billion loan made by Iran to France under the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and not repaid to date.

The Tehran Times, an English-language newspaper, said in an editorial that an improvement in relations between Iran and France should not be upset by "temporary political bubbles."

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, quoted the newspaper as saying that "expansion of ties

with Iran must not become a partisan battle nor a means for resolving internal power struggles."

It said, without elaborating, that several past attempts at improving relations failed because of power struggles in France. It also urged political factions in Iran not to create problems for officials over issues that have been "carefully studied."

France could become an "indispensable partner" of Iran because of its technical and scientific capabilities, especially in atomic energy, heavy industries and commerce, the newspaper said.

The Tehran Times, which is aligned with the so-called "pragmatist" camp of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said relations between France and Iran should be based on "strategic goals," of the two countries.

The pragmatists in Iran advocate rapprochement with the West as a means of pulling Iran out of its isolation, and accelerating reconstruction.

IRNA, in a separate dispatch, reported that Italy's visiting Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alberto Rossi announced his government's readiness for close cooperation with Iran in various economic and industrial fields.

Also Tuesday, President

Hashemi Rafsanjani stressed Iran's willingness to expand its ties with the Arab neighbours, while Rajai Khorassani, head of parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, reiterated that Iran should resume its severed diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

Khorassani's original call for a resumption of ties was made in a newspaper interview two weeks ago.

The Foreign Relations Committee, which opposes such rapprochement, repudiated his call saying it "did not reflect" its views.

IRNA said Rafsanjani made his comments at a meeting in Tehran Tuesday with the newly appointed Iranian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Muhammad Ali Hadi Najafabadi.

He quoted Rafsanjani as emphasising Iran's willingness to further expand its relations with Muslim and neighbouring countries. It gave no direct quotes.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that Najafabadi, who enjoys what the agency called an "outstanding" revolutionary background, would work for improvement of ties and promotion of security in the region.

He was quoted as saying that

the appointment of such a personality to the post was indicative of the importance Iran attaches to the southern Gulf littoral states.

Najafabadi holds a degree in theology and a master's degree in international affairs, the agency said.

He has served as a member of Iran's Majlis, or parliament, and was head of the Foreign Relations Committee before Khorassani.

Hussein Sadeqi, director of Gulf affairs at the Foreign Ministry, was appointed ambassador to Kuwait last week, marking an improvement in relations following the Gulf war during which Kuwaiti coastal facilities were hit by Iranian missiles.

Rafsanjani also has spoken in favour of better relations with Saudi Arabia.

Tehran-Riyadh ties were strained two years ago when more than 400 pilgrims, most of them Iranian, were killed in riots in the Muslim holy city of Mecca.

Saudi Arabia broke off relations with Tehran, accusing it of subversion and terrorism.

The influential Khorassani was quoted as telling the Majlis: "I still believe that we must have diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia and have reasons to support it."

Soviet officer in Afghanistan opposed intervention

MOSCOW (AP) — Ten years after Soviet forces intervened in Afghanistan, the official press disclosed Tuesday that the top Soviet soldier in Kabul opposed the move and lost his job because of it.

Gen. Ivan G. Pavlovsky was overruled by then-Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev with the unanimous backing of the Communist Party politburo, the weekly Literary Gazette reported.

The page-long article, printed in the paper's latest edition on the decision to enter Afghanistan in December 1979, was based on Anatoly Gromyko's recollections of his conversations with his father, former Soviet Foreign Minister and President Andrei A. Gromyko, and an interview with Pavlovsky.

The report was the first in the Soviet press to disclose high-level military opposition to the decision to enter Afghanistan.

Before the Soviets completed their withdrawal on Feb. 15, 13,000 Soviet soldiers were killed. The war between forces of the pro-Soviet Afghan government and rebels continues.

The newspaper report is part of a painful re-evaluation of the Soviet experience in Afghanistan, spurred by the return of thousands of soldiers who suffered wounds in the fighting or have not been able to readjust to life at home.

"I reported to Dmitri F. Ustinov, politburo member, minister of defence and marshal of the Soviet Union, that the entrance of our soldiers in Afghanistan was

not necessary," Pavlovsky told the paper.

He said he proposed instead that the politburo send a representative to Kabul to express Brezhnev's fears that Afghan leader Hafizullah Amin would turn toward the United States.

Soviet diplomats in Afghanistan at the time did not understand the country, and no one took into account its history of guerrilla resistance to foreign power, Pavlovsky said.

The date of the Soviet intervention, Dec. 27, 1979, was scheduled nine days ahead of a meeting in Kabul between Afghan leaders and the ambassador of Pakistan, Pavlovsky said.

Pakistan is a close ally of the United States and has served as a base and conduit of military sup-

plies to the Afghan rebels.

Pavlovsky, now 80, at the time was not only commander of Soviet advisers in Afghanistan, but also a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, a deputy defence minister and commander of Soviet ground forces.

But when he returned from Afghanistan he was removed from his Defence Ministry posts and sent to serve in a group of military inspectors, Literary Gazette said.

The paper's political observer, Igor Belyayev, said Brezhnev in September 1979 turned down the appeal of Afghan leader Nur Mohammad Taraki for Soviet soldiers to help fight the anti-Marxist resistance. Brezhnev told Taraki that intervention in

Afghanistan by Soviet soldiers would turn the majority of the population against the pro-Soviet government, Belyayev said.

Taraki had been installed as president after a coup in April 1978.

But shortly after Taraki's meeting with Brezhnev, the Afghan leader was killed in a dispute within the party and Amin took over.

Brezhnev was shaken by the murder of Taraki, who not long ago had been his guest and thought that Amin's group could reach an agreement with the United States," Gromyko quoted his father. The elder Gromyko died in July.

Amin was killed when Soviet soldiers entered the country, and

he was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

The decision to enter Afghanistan has been criticised widely in recent years as one made by a very small group of people.

Gromyko, citing his father's recollections, noted that the decision was indeed made behind the closed doors of Brezhnev's office.

But he said that it then was approved by a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee and that one there in the leadership of the Soviet republics spoke out against the decision.

"You can disagree with this decision today, after 10 years, but there is no basis to place under doubt the political foundations of our aid to Afghanistan," Gromyko said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:00	Hi Squad
18:00	News for the Deaf
18:20	Religious programme
19:15	Health programme
19:40	Programme review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:40	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Change Elyses
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Bill Cosby Show
21:10	Max Headroom
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Jesse"

PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:10	(Sunrise) Duha
12:20	Dhuhr
15:00	Asr
18:30	Maghrib
19:57	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish	Tel. 810740
Anglican Church of God Church, Tel.	632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot but dry and winds will be southwesterly moderate causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate wind and calm seas.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	20 / 33
Aqaba	25 / 41
Deserts	18 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 39

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 30, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.	
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00	Damascus (RJ)
06:30	New Delhi (RJ)
06:40	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
06:50	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
07:15	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
07:30	London (RJ)
07:40	Larnaca (RJ)
08:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:10	Cairo (RJ)
08:30	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:40	Bangkok (RJ)
08:50	Rome (RJ)
09:15	Baghdad (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Dubai (TU)
10:10	Sanaa (TK)
11:00	Istanbul (TK)
11:30	Kuwait (KT)
12:30	Karachi (MS)
13:30	Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
14:00	Karachi (KT)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
11:45	Rome (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:15	Paris (RJ)
13:30	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:40	Larnaca (RJ)
14:00	Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:15	Cairo (RJ)
14:30	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
14:45	Bangkok (RJ)
15:00	Jeddah (RJ)
15:10	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
15:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:15	Tunis (TU)
10:30	Riyadh (p.d.) (SV)
11:10	Frankfurt (LH)
12:00	Istanbul (TK)
12:10	Kuwait (KT)
14:05	Cairo (MS)
15:20	Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
15:35	Karachi (KT)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq builds new piers at Gulf port

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, eager to restore its outlets to the Gulf cut during its war with Iran, said Wednesday it had built 13 new piers at the northern Gulf port of Umm Qasr. The Iraqi News Agency quoted transport and communications Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi as saying the new piers and plans for 10 more by the end of 1989 at Umm Qasr "will help to improve Iraq's import and export facilities through the Gulf." The new piers bring Iraq's non-oil export capacity at Umm Qasr, which can handle ships up to 13,000 tonnes, to eight million tonnes a year. Iraq's main Gulf port of Basra is cut off from the Gulf by war debris in its outlet to the sea, the Shatt Al Arab Waterway. Baghdad wants priority given to clearing the Shatt in its talks with Tehran aimed at securing a permanent peace in the Gulf where a United Nations-mediated ceasefire ended Gulf war fighting in August 1988.

Colombia orders arrest of two Israelis

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's security and intelligence agency has said it had issued warrants for the arrest and extradition of an Israeli army reserve colonel alleged to have trained hit squads for Colombian drug gangs. A communique from the Colombian Department of Administrative Security (DAS), said Yair Klein, head of the Hod Hahaimit (pioneer) security company, had been charged with criminal conspiracy and was being sought for extradition. A warrant had also been issued for the arrest of Arif Acek, another Israeli, on the same charges, the agency said. A DAS spokeswoman said Klein's warrant was issued on suspicion that he trained hit squads linked to the gangs, which have been carrying out a series of bombings in response to a government crackdown on drug lords that began last month. Speaking from his Tel Aviv office, Klein said that he would go to Colombia to stand trial if formally charged. "I would be happy to go to Colombia if I am charged there. I am sure of my innocence," he said.

FOR SALE DUTY UNPAID

1. Citroen BX 16 1985 model plus A/C.
2. Renault 25 GTS 1986 model plus A/C.

For more information please contact Tel. 644428 between 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



THE ROYAL THEATRE COMPANY

- Anyone interested in auditioning for!
- 1) a lighthearted Christmas Show
 - 2) dramatised play readings (in conjunction with the British Council)
 - 3) a dramatic new musical based on (in conjunction with the lives of the Bronte family, British Council)

are welcome at the HAYA ARTS CENTRE on Saturday, September 23, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Children (3 girls, 1 boy) ages 11-17, also required for Bronte musical auditions same day, same place at 6 p.m.

Also at the British Council on Monday, October 2, at 6 p.m.

Children (3 girls, 1 boy) ages 11-17, also required for Bronte musical auditions same day, same place at 6 p.m.

Also at the British Council on Monday, October 2, at 6 p.m.

MARKET PRICES

Upptower price in \$/kg	
Apple (golden)	540 / 480
Apple (red)	570 / 520
Bananas	400 / 350
Bananas (Malaysian)	350 / 300
Beans	300 / 440
Cabbage	200 / 150
Carrot	200 / 140
Cauliflower	180 / 130
Corn	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	330 / 280
Cucumbers (small)	330 / 280
Dates	450 / 400
Eggplant	180

Jordan needs genuine reforms—Obeidat

IRBID (J.T.) — Jordan is in need of genuine reforms and a national plan for political development as successful as the socio-economic development plans that had been implemented in the past years; and all this can be attained by the coming parliament which will be elected on Nov. 8, former prime minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Obeidat said in a lecture at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.

The coming parliament, he said, should bear the responsibility of acting as a constitutional authority and play a serious role in rectifying the situation in the Kingdom.

Obeidat stressed the need for the dominance of law on all aspects in Jordan and reaffirmed the citizens' need to respect the law, to pledge allegiance to the throne and to express deep faith in security, peace and stability.

"This country can make no headway towards progress without the prevalence of the law on all citizens who have the right to be fully represented in parliament which should play an active role in serving their interest since Jordanian citizens are partners in responsibility," Obeidat noted.

In return, he said, the government "should work with honesty and integrity and good faith; and should under no circumstances belittle the role of the majority, ignore its interests and disregard its public opinion. Otherwise, everything will end up in oppression and tyranny."

"The criteria of success for a government is the result of its action, its commitment to shoulder responsibility and its ability to plan and implement sound policies," Obeidat noted. "Should the government

act accordingly, it will not only win the support and confidence of the whole nation."

Obeidat attacked those elements who benefited from certain political situations to deepen the gap between the ruling authority and the ruled masses, and those who succeeded in poisoning Jordanian people's self-confidence at a critical moment in the region's history.

"These elements, he said, acquired major gains and made material profits by exploiting institutions, including the legislative institution, in order to provide protection for their illegitimate gains. They have succeeded in that course of action due to the political vacuum in the country and because of the absence of authority to call them to account for their deeds," Obeidat said.

These elements, he added, have exceeded all limits in their actions, exploited Jordan's economy and accumulated wealth at the expense of the majority. "In this situation, there has been a retreat of justice; and this in turn encouraged encroachment on public funds, giving way to corruption on a large scale," Obeidat pointed out.

He said: "Because of all this we are now paying the price of our silence and condoning such excessiveness and major blunders."

"Indeed the public's despair increased by the lapse of time, and due to the general licence that swept the country, there was no public willingness to confront those elements who continually escaped retribution," Obeidat noted.

The failure on the part of the previous house of parliament to deal with the situation, "paved the way for those elements to persist in their actions at a time when all forms of legitimate



Ahmad Obeidat

opposition vanished and when all chances for constructive criticism were doomed," Obeidat said.

What happened in the past few years, Obeidat pointed out, has contributed towards an aggravation of the situation to a large extent. "What we witnessed was an economic recession and not a single solution for the problem of the unemployment."

"The past few years saw a fever in currency speculation, involvement of certain banks in underhand dealings, the creation of a blackmarket, the first to be witnessed in Jordan; all of which led to a devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and a decline in the public's confidence in the national currency," Obeidat said.

"Of course, the government was present all the time, watching everything and doing nothing to redress the situation; and of course, the silent majority paid the price..." he said.

Obeidat referred to previous government's declared policy to deal with pockets of poverty, but he said, unemployment and wide-scale poverty have been plaguing the country for the past four years. "This resulted

partly from rampant spending, unjustified imports of commodities that do not meet the needs of Jordan."

"Despite the government's knowledge of the critical stage of Jordan was going through, and despite the public awareness of the facts, the situation was allowed to aggravate, and the nation's foreign currency reserves continued to deplete, coupled with the depletion of the citizens' confidence in their institutions," Obeidat said.

"We noticed with great astonishment and dismay how the writers, the information services and the media were exploited to further mislead the public, distort the facts, to present the awkward policies as sound plans and to present the national economy as strong and the monetary situation as stable..." But at the end everyone was disillusioned when the facts surfaced..." Obeidat said.

"Indeed Jordan lived through a period of frustration and fatal resignation and hopelessness before the regrettable incidents that occurred in the southern regions of the country. Since the people of Jordan were totally indignant and outraged at watching public funds being mismanaged, and the citizens' interests ignored," Obeidat continued.

Control over public spending and abuse of authority was totally absent in the past years and matters could not have worsened to such degree had there been constitutional institutions to work as watchdogs and to provide guarantees, Obeidat said.

"For this reason the role of parliament is important and the coming Lower House will have to play a major role to enhance the spirit of law and order and to do justice to all," Obeidat added. "Jordan is in

need of political reform and total commitment to serving the common interests and to safeguard the citizens rights," Obeidat said. "We oppose any form of extremism and denounce violence of any kind. We believe that institutions should exercise their responsible role in a democratic manner and provide a guarantee for the continuation of the march towards development," Obeidat said.

He added: "We must deal firmly with all calls for divisions and regionalism and we should denounce any deviation from the law and should close the door for all sources of corruption..."

Obeidat expressed the view that imported and alien ideologies and formulas "were responsible for our loss over the past 25 years."

We hope, Obeidat said, the coming Lower House of Parliament will shoulder the responsibility of rectifying the situation.

"The present stage cannot tolerate any cosmetic treatment of partial solutions for the existing problems in the country. The majority of the people in Jordan is awaiting with eagerness to see just solutions to the numerous problems," Obeidat added.

"We have implemented numerous economic plans which yielded fruitful results, but we are now in need of a national political development plan to take the country to a safe harbour," Obeidat said.

We should remember, Obeidat said, that "time is not on our side, and therefore we ought to work in earnest to restore the balance to the constitutional authorities of Jordan and to enable the central authority to wield power over expenditure in military as well as civilian fields."



King Carl Gustaf of Sweden and Queen Silvia Wednesday attend a seminar on "prenatal brain damage causes — management and protection," at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

King Carl Gustaf, Queen Silvia inaugurate genetic laboratory

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Carl Gustaf of Sweden and Queen Silvia Wednesday inaugurated a genetic laboratory at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine.

They later opened a seminar on prenatal brain damage causes ... management and protection, organised jointly by the University of Jordan and the Swedish Royal Medical Society.

"Queen Silvia and I are delighted to see the fruits of joint Jordanian-Swedish cooperation in medical fields through the establishment of centres for the treatment of various diseases and conducting useful talks in deal with medical problems," King Carl said in his address.

Sweden's stability and economic development enabled it to set up a successful system to promote health and social development, the king said.

Vaccination against handicaps started in Sweden in the 1930s and various regional units have been set up to help rehabilitate handicapped children over the past two decades, the king added.

"Genetic matters are of great significance to the development of the human being and each country requires knowledge on heredity, and it should be emphasised that hereditary problems are responsible for 1.5 to 4.5 per cent of the total world children's diseases," the king said in his address.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, who attended the seminar, delivered another speech in his capacity as president of the Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society, voicing Jordan's appreciation of Sweden's contribution to the conference.

Prince Ra'd said that Jordan's endeavours to promote health services succeeded in reducing child mortality rates from 80 to 40 per thousand in the past decade. University President Mahmoud Al Samara addressed the opening session, outlining the university's activities and programmes, particularly its medical endeavours.

King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia Wednesday visited King Hussein Medical Centre and were briefed on its activities and services by National Medical Institution (NMI) Director General Daoud Hanania and the centre's director, Aref Bataineh.

Hanania briefed the distinguished visitors on NMI which commenced programmes in Jordan last year, and the specialised work of the King Hussein Medical

Centre, Farah Rehabilitation Centre and Queco Alia Heart Centre.

More than 7,000 heart operations have been carried out at these institutions over the past 19 years by Jordanian teams of specialists and cardiologists, Hanania said.

He said that Jordanian and non-Jordanian Arabs continue to benefit from the services of these institutions.

Talks are underway with a Swedish team now on a visit to Jordan, on the prospect of Sweden's contributions to Jordan's endeavours in neurological treatment and surgery through the supply of modern equipment needed for such services, especially the gamma-ray apparatus which was developed in Sweden to treat tumours," Hanania pointed out.

He said that a conference on neurosurgery will be held in Jordan soon with the participation of Jordanian and Swedish experts as well as other specialists from Arab countries.

The King and Queen of Sweden toured the three institutions in question and met with patients who had undergone open heart surgery, and learned that 25 per cent of the heart patients come from Arab countries.

The Swedish monarch said he was impressed with the performance of the medical institutions and NMI's endeavours in modernise Jordanian medical and health services.

King Hussein, guests visit frontline positions

Later Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein accompanied the king and queen of Sweden on a visit to the frontline positions of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division where they met with commanders and heard briefings on the troops duties as well as the area's historic background.

The division commander presented the Royal guests with token gifts.

King Carl Gustaf, Queen Silvia and the accompanying delegation also visited Jerash and were briefed on its history as well as the historical stages the ancient city went through.

They were accompanied by Prince Ra'd, the Jordanian ambassador to Sweden, and the Swedish ambassador to Jordan.

Upon arrival in Jerash, they were received by Tourism Minister Yassir Hinnat and a number of Jerash district officials.

Apples in political basket — greener or redder?

By Narmeen Masud
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The appointment was made a week in advance, upon "their" own request, but "they" would not define the meeting place, until that same day. Four cars, filled with apprehensive yet excited reporters, drove along main roads and side-roads to reach a deserted shop somewhere in Amman.

Excitement was tinged with fear as the four cars waited for a signal, a signal which would lead to the meeting place of the political party.

Election time has highlighted the existence of the "idealists," now the underground movement wants a seat at the centre stage of public participation and seeks some outlet to let its views be known. Zero hour came, and the media objects were called in to hear the announcement of the

names which, if successful, will "portray and defend the rights of the people," their leader said.

Why are you running out of hiding?

"We have decided to run in the elections on a national level, to reach parliament and ensure that there would be a serious initiation of a democratic movement for the good of the people."

Can you outline your campaign?

"Nothing has crystallised yet, but we want public participation in the solving of Jordan's problems."

But what about the other parties? Aren't they stronger than you?

"No, they were dealt a heavy blow when they did not help earlier, and they are disunited. What makes you different?"

"We have a deep realisation and understanding of the pitfalls

of this quest for recognition, and we know that we will not win unless we are united. It is our only weapon."

What are your fears?

"We will have very few fears after we register for the elections. But we hope that the government will not decide to use Article 18E of the Election Law against us."

Now, Article 18E stipulates that a candidate "should not be a member of an illegal grouping or party." The article defines as illegal "any part or organisation which contradicts, in its goals, aims and principles, the Jordanian constitution."

If 18E is conservatively interpreted by the government in favour of wider participation of political parties in the Kingdom, then the question, to many observers, is what is the percentage of Jordanian people who will cast their ballots based on political

affiliations?

A researcher who conducted a survey of public opinion in Jordan claims that 14.6 per cent of the registered voters would elect their political party candidate. This percentage, he said, includes members of religion-oriented parties.

According to many who are aware of this trend, the basket may actually contain a few apples with definite and clear origins in the parliament, but they hope that these apples would not carry labels of foreign origins.

Although the slogans of emerging political parties stress the need for concentrating attention on national affairs affecting the daily lives of the Jordanian people, many voters fear that these slogans would later be replaced with imported political and economic ideologies.

Foreign thoughts, they argue, would inevitably change the social structure and priorities in Jordan and would inevitably lead to foreign interferences in the Kingdom.

Other parties have agreed that foreign political ideas have made a marked contribution to their political evolution in Jordan, but they maintain that domestic issues have ascended to the top of the ladder of priorities and have completely reshaped forms of thoughts in the wake of a strong need for practical and realistic steps.

The so-called "dissident" parties maintain now that their own found national ideologies will not contravene the Jordanian Constitution and will serve national interest and stability.

The reporters got up to leave. The candidates smile with hope. The questions are not resolved. The media objects are only transmitters of news, a channel between the candidates and the people. The results will be determined in a few weeks...

Until then, the basket will just have to wait for its apples.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

AJLOUNI MEETS U.S. DELEGATION: Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni had a meeting here Wednesday with a delegation representing universities in the United States and discussed bilateral cooperation in cultural, technical and scientific fields. Ajlouni also spoke at length on the university's development and its services to the local community in Jordan. The delegation was accompanied by the director of the United States Cultural Centre and the U.S. cultural attaché in Amman as well as an official in charge of implementing the Fulbright Educational Exchange Programme. University officials were present at the meeting.

SCANDINAVIAN FOREST INAUGURATED: Their Majesties King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia Wednesday inaugurated the Scandinavian Forest and planted two trees as a symbol of the Jordanian-Swedish friendship. Upon arrival at the forest, they were received by Minister of Agriculture Bassam Saket and a number of ministry officials. They were accompanied by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, and the accompanying Swedish delegation. (Petra)

SYRIAN RADIO, TV CHIEF ARRIVES: The director general of the Syrian Radio and Television Corporation, Mr. Abdul Nabi Hijazi arrived in Amman Wednesday for a three-day visit and talks on cooperation in television production. Hijazi is to meet with Mr. Jawad Maraga, director general of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema production to discuss joint production, and with Mr. Riyadh Shueibi, director general of the Dubai based company for television production. (Petra)

TAFIEH GOVERNOR INSPECTS YOUTH CENTRES: Tafieh Governor Khalaf Maharmeh inspected sports and youth centres in Tafieh region and discussed means of promoting their activities. The governor stressed the need for the sports clubs to take part in major sports events and to improve their capabilities through continuous training. (Petra)

FOR SALE

Chinese and Persian carpets, silverware, crystal, and a variety of electric and household utensils.

Please call telephone 622576

CHURCH SERVICES

Anglican Church in Amman. Services this Sunday.

8 a.m. Holy Communion
6 p.m. Family Communion

Chaplain: Revd. William Taylor, Tel: 628543

Hilayel opens course for women preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Wednesday opened a week-long training course for 25 women preachers to assume preaching for women in health affairs.

The course was opened by Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel who stressed the need for a greater measure of cooperation between the Ministries of Awqaf and Health to prepare publications that spread awareness among the public in general and women in particular in health and religious affairs.

The participants will hear lec-

tures on food poisoning, care for the pregnant mother and children, the danger of smoking to public health and protecting children from diarrhoea, the need to encourage breast-feeding, children's misbehaviour and children's mental health.

The participants will be touring centres to have a close hand look at their services to the public.

The course which has been organised in conjunction with the Ministry of Health aims to help preachers spread health awareness among women in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The Indian Trade Fair at the International Fair Centre, Marj Al Hamam. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for business visitors and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for general public.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Bouni at Irbid's Young Women's Centre.
- * A photo exhibition, with video shows and booklets, on the history of the Monarchy in Sweden at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photo exhibition by French artist Jean-Noel de Soye displaying photos projecting fashion accessories such as jewellery, caps, scarfs and belts, at the French Cultural Centre (the exhibition also displays slides on the history of fashion).
- * A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Al Barbari and Fadwa Jalal at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

FOLKLORE

- * An evening of Caucasian folk dancing by the Walsbach Folklore Group at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A feature film entitled "Ragtime" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

ATTENTION PLEASE WELCOME TO JORDAN

Welcome to the Bedouin Bazaar Exhibition with its new policy 20 per cent real discount on all items to those who are interested in hand-made oriental rugs and carpets... The new management of the Bedouin Bazaar is pleased to inform you that we have "research" received a very nice collection of hand-made oriental rugs and carpets, antique copper brass, silver, jewellery, embroidery and a kind of gifts and souvenirs. Cards are welcome. Located between 7th and 8th circles next to the American School, near Chili House Restaurant. Tel: 824485

AMMAN PLAZA

REQUIRED

Amman Plaza Hotel has a vacancy for a dynamic Sales Executive. Suitable candidates should possess an excellent command of spoken and written Arabic & English.

Applicants must be ambitious with a ready willingness to learn. Smart appearance is essential and must be able to drive.

Kindly apply in person to the Sales Dept. with a recent photo and your C.V.

Trusthouse Forte Hotels

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/ WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) TENDER NO. 39/89/VL SUPPLY OF GATE VALVES, CHECK VALVES AND BUTTERFLY VALVES

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the water and sewerage project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of gate valves, check valves and butterfly valves.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of gate valves, check valves and butterfly valves.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the documents at, the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmelsani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 JO.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 150.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in Section V Schedule of Requirements, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, Saturday Oct. 28, 1989.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Jordan Times

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Shamir's election plan: an analysis

By Ali Al Jarbawi and F. Robert Hunter

The following article is reprinted from Sept. 8 issue of the London-based Middle East International.

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shamir's "election plan" is now five months old. Submitted to the U.S. government in April and approved in mid-May by the Israeli cabinet, the plan did not arise from Shamir's determined intention to begin negotiations with the Palestinians in order to reach a compromise that would put an end once and for all to the dispute between the two sides. On the contrary, it was the result of pressures which had been building up since the beginning of the intifada and which had reached the point where the prime minister was compelled to do something in order to alleviate them, at least temporarily. It was an attempt, therefore, to buy time.

These pressures had two sources. Within Israel, unrest and political polarisation were growing after more than a year of the intifada. The idea of holding elections in the territories was initially suggested by Defence Minister Rabin. And when Rabin and the Labour party began discussions with Palestinians there, Shamir feared his party would be outmanoeuvred and began to consider the idea of an initiative of his own.

Internal Israeli politics, then, was the initial motivation. On the external level, the PLO had gained a big public relations advantage after the PNC's proclamation of a Palestinian state and the American decision to open a dialogue with the organisation. This, along with continued criticism by Western countries of the violent methods used to suppress the intifada, had led to the build-up of world-wide pressures on Israel. In addition, the advent of the Bush administration aroused concern about a possible change of heart on the part of the Americans. Following his inauguration, President Bush invited Shamir to visit Washington, but he had accompanied this by direct signals that the prime minister should bring with him a definite proposal. Shamir was thus placed in a situation where he had to produce something.

That "something" was Rabin's idea of elections, fitted to Likud specifications. Shamir's plan had to be a compromise. It would have to contain enough in it to satisfy the United States while not jeopardising the Likud's long-standing position of ceding "not an inch" of land in the occupied territories. This was accomplished by incorporating right-wing principles into the document in the section of the plan entitled "Basic Premises". These stated that Israel would not talk to the PLO, would not accept the establishment of "an additional" Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, and would not agree to any change in the status of the territories.

Shamir traps the U.S.

In a sense, the Bush-Baker team had allowed themselves to be trapped by Shamir. They had asked for a plan, and once the prime minister produced one, they were stuck with it. According to the plan, Palestinians would elect representatives to conduct negotiations for a five-year transitional period of self-rule, during which Israel would be responsible for foreign affairs

and security. At some point during the transitional period, negotiations would begin for a permanent solution. This plan thus adopted almost completely the formula of the Camp David Accords, rejected ten years ago by the Palestinians and opposed until over a year ago by Shamir himself. For most Americans, however, the word "elections" had a nice ring to it. Many people thought the plan a great idea. With the endorsement by the administration, the election plan received America's official blessing. Shamir and his Likud bloc had regained the initiative where it mattered most, in the United States.

With respect to the Palestinians, Shamir's plan actually offered them very little. They were being asked to postpone for several years a discussion of the issues most important for the realisation of their national goals — return, self-determination and statehood. Palestinians also realised that the plan could be stopped or aborted at any point along the way, leaving them with only limited "autonomy". More especially, many believed that elections, by focussing attention upon political issues (who would stand in elections), would effectively end the intifada.

Another question was also raised. This plan carried the assumption that Israel would have to talk to the leadership in the territories. If so, why were elections needed? Israel could talk to the leaders of its choice without elections. Elections were not needed to identify leaders because the Israelis already knew who they were and had indeed been talking to some of them. Was not the plan merely a diversionary exercise, calculated to buy time and to undermine the PLO's public relations successes? Shamir's statement that it would take 9-12 months just to prepare for elections lent credence to such a view.

The PLO's response

Despite Israel's desire to exclude the PLO, its response would be crucial to the plan's success. At first, the PLO rejected it outright because it said "no" to a Palestinian state and offered nothing to meet any of the Palestinian national demands. Pressure was then brought to bear upon the PLO from the United States, from Palestinian personalities in the territories, and from other sources such as Egypt. The PLO had been moving in the direction of a negotiated settlement for years, and it knew that without U.S. efforts no agreement with Israel was possible. It also valued the dialogue with the United States, and wanted to carry it forward. Thus, it could not remain indifferent to American importunities that it accept the plan as a starting point. U.S. officials suggested that the Shamir plan could be manipulated or tinkered with in the future, but first the PLO must accept it in its entirety.

Like the United States, certain Palestinian figures (nationalist personalities who were also PLO supporters) wanted things to start moving. In their communications with the PLO leadership, they urged acceptance of the election idea but not of the plan as it stood. Total rejection, they argued, threatened to wipe out public relations gains achieved during the first year of the intifada.

By Guy Diamond

Reuter

PEKING — Six months after China imposed martial law on Lhasa to crush Tibetan nationalist unrest, residents say the military crackdown is as severe as ever with no let-up in sight.

Troops operate checkpoints every 100 yards or so, the temples seen empty of monks and the hotels of tourists.

"Martial law in Peking is a Sunday picnic compared with Lhasa," said a Western academic just back from the remote Himalayan region.

Every major intersection is guarded by armed troops, many apparently teenagers from neighbouring Sichuan province. Soldiers are stationed regularly along main roads, checking identity papers and stopping traffic at night.

After six months of martial law, no let-up in Lhasa

All people entering Lhasa are required to have special papers. Armoured personnel carriers and military helicopters guard the outskirts of the regional capital. One recent visitor was assailed with fierce shouts of "foreign devil" from a passing truck full of young ethnic Chinese soldiers. In the heart of the ancient city, traders and pilgrims still mill about alleys surrounding the



da. They pressed the PLO to give a reserved acceptance of the plan, to say "yes" and qualify it. A faction inside Fatah also argued for this position. Members of Israel's Labour party got in on the act as well. "Grab it," they told the nationalist figures. Labour, they suggested, would help them later on.

As a result of the internal dialogue, the PLO changed its position. It sent signals that it was prepared to accept the plan subject to conditions, the most important of which were (1) that it be linked to the realisation of Palestinian national goals; (2) that Palestinians from outside the territories be represented in the delegation to negotiate a permanent solution; (3) that East Jerusalem residents be allowed to participate in the elections; (4) that there be international supervision of the elections; (5) that Israeli troops be withdrawn from the territories prior to elections.

Sharon steps in

It was at this point that the three Likud ministers (Sharon, Modai and Levy), fearing that the U.S. and Labour would divert the plan, imposed four conditions which narrowed and restricted it to the minimum level. When that happened, the positive public image of the Shamir plan began to evaporate. The PLO and its supporters quickly capitalised on their opportunity. "The plan is dead," they said. "Sharon killed it." Having gone all out to support the plan, the Bush administration was not only embarrassed, but was also put under pressure to act. Some prominent American Jewish leaders leaned hard on the Israelis, telling Shamir that he simply could not abandon the plan. Shamir thus had no choice but to return to the proposal. He came back to the government for a vote reaffirming the original plan, and got it.

However, the failed attempt by the Likud right-wingers to impose their restrictions upon the Israeli government only made the plan more attractive. Talk was focussed not upon the PLO's conditions, but upon the "victory" that had been won. The plan, almost dead, had been revived. Shamir's position as a "centrist" was strengthened. The prime minister now had the best of both worlds: the renewed backing of the United States, and, within the Likud, a formal right-wing statement which would gain him support from the settlers and others. The plan was presented to the Palestinians as a gain. The time had come, American officials said, for the Palestinians to soften their position still further. "Seize the opportunity while you can," was the message. Inside the occupied territories, some Palestinian nationalist figures also began to speak more positively about it. Shamir's plan had become "legitimised."

As a result, some officials within the PLO establishment started sending signals that the PLO would lower its demands. Now its acceptance would be based upon two main conditions: (1) that there be a clear link between the plan and a final settlement; (2) that Palestinians outside the territories be part of the final delegation. The other

thousands of troops and imposing martial law on March 8. Sixteen people were killed during the March protests, according to official figures. Tibetans say many more died.

China dates its rule over Tibet back to the 13th century and says it will never give up sovereignty. Communist rule was enforced in the early 1950s by the People's Liberation Army. Since martial law, troops have been seen encamped around Drepung in the hills outside Lhasa. Visitors to what was long ago the world's biggest Buddhist monastery said they saw few of the 400 or so monks supposed to be living there. One Tibetan source, usually well-informed, said some monks from Ganden, another major Lhasa monastery, had been transported north to labour camps in Qinghai province.

Shamir plays for time

What conclusions can be drawn from this analysis? What has the Shamir plan produced, and where is it leading? First, indirect talks have taken place between Israel and the PLO. Second, in light of these talks, and after several months of meetings between Israeli representatives and Palestinians in the occupied territories, one may conclude that it no longer matters whether elections are held or not. Israel now knows that it cannot separate Palestinians inside from their leadership outside. If Israel could be induced to accept a delegation composed of Palestinians from inside and outside the territories, negotiations would have begun de facto. The delegation would represent the continuation of indirect talks, not something new. Third, since the formation of such a delegation would pose grave political problems for Shamir and the Likud party, the Israeli government can be expected to do everything possible to stop it from happening.

At the moment, the PLO has not only accepted the idea of a delegation but has also reached an understanding as to which Palestinians from the occupied territories might be members of it. The only question left to be resolved is its "outside" composition. Shamir is thus already beginning to feel the pressure. And since his purpose from the beginning has been to buy time, he can be expected to resort to more manoeuvres like the Obeid kidnapping, which succeeded in diverting attention from the plan.

Shamir and Likud are convinced that time is on their side. They think they see signs of tiredness among Palestinians in the territories. By keeping the "peace process" from moving ahead, they believe that the intifada will slow down. By doing nothing, they think that they can further divide the Palestinians. This is a big gamble. For the intifada could also change its focus and become more intense. Time may be working against, not for, Shamir and his government.

Reunified Germany? Probably not in this century

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The picture of jubilant East German refugees clutching fresh West German passports brings an old U.S. policy question to the surface: Will Germany ever become one again?

Most U.S. analysts doubt reunification could take place this century but they say it could happen during the lifetimes of the East German emigrants who have made a mass westward exodus through Hungary and Austria in the past 10 days.

Created out of the rubble of World War II, West Germany has long had the goal of reunification with the east. But the goal is stated cautiously by the Bonn government and by the United States, which shares it.

The most outspoken American advocate of German reunification — known in U.S. policy circles as self-determination — may be Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador in Bonn, who said in a radio interview on Sept. 3, "it is not normal with two Germanys."

Walters said President George Bush would favour reunification "if it were to be achieved peacefully and through free elections by the population."

Bush told reporters on Monday, "I would think it's a matter for the Germans to decide. But put it this way: If that was worked out between the Germans, I do not think we should view that as bad for Western interests. I think there's been a dramatic change in post-World War II Germany. And so I don't fear it."

Washington analysts are more circumspect. "Our position on reunification is nothing we trumpet from the rooftops," one said. "Nobody thinks it'll be tomorrow or next year," said a State Department official who declined to be identified. "Historically

there is always this kind of feeling about Germany, after the two world wars: 'Keep an eye on them.' I'm sure that's how a lot of Europeans feel."

Jeremiah Riemer, an expert on East-West relations at Johns Hopkins University, said he did not believe a single German state was possible this century.

"I do think that some form of closer association between West Germany and an East Germany which is greatly reformed, much more open, is possible," Riemer said. "I don't think people want to think about it except one step at a time."

A first step, one that is already being contemplated, would be along the path of economic reform being charted by the planned economic unification of Western Europe in 1992, the Brookings Institution's John Steinbruner said.

He said West Germany may press for stronger East German trade ties to Western Europe. The key question, one analyst said, was not whether reunification could occur but in what context an economically and politically massive united Germany would exist.

The analyst said a cohesive Europe could more readily cope with the new entity but a united Germany would be hard to accept as long as Eastern Europe is "fundamentally in disarray."

Despite the basic West German law that urges reunification, "Germans are conservative people. The last thing they want to do is leap into an unknown void that would put at risk everything they've worked for."

The U.S. endorsement of reunification has three important conditions, the analyst said: It must come "in peace, in freedom and integrated within the democratic community of nations of Europe."

OPEN FORUM

Ode to Lebanon

Those beautiful years of my stay
In the country Lebanon, of my childhood,
Where I grew and inspired of
Real beauties and happiness.

As a young girl going to school;
Which goes way back to 'thirties.
There I got the most high beliefs
Under its unforgettable walls.

It was the centre of ever burning
Science and education,
From all over lands people thronged
To get the very best teachings.

How can I forget the heavens,
High in the sky, wide and blue.
The green trees stand in one piece,
Cover the hills and vales far away.

The thinking waters deep in the valleys,
Crook their way between the mountains
Painted green, yellow, violet,
Invite the fingers of real art.

Or the villagers so diligent,
You can admire their attitude,
Proud of Lebanon the best land
Born on it and ready to die.

Don't forbid them to live on its soil
Enjoy its waters running so pure,
Let them live! Don't spoil their jollity
It's their land! They have the right.

Pauline Swiss

LETTERS

People's health is more important

To the Editor:

ON reading the letter of Sept. 19 headed "NOT TRUE" and written by Dr. Qubain, I at first was relieved by thinking that this was referring to the smuggling of cooking fat. Then I realised that the doctor was really very indignant over a misquote in your paper, and rightly so.

Surely at such a time the head of the Primary Health Care at the Ministry of Health should have been more worried of the consequences to the health of the public than to his own personal feelings over the controversy of which laboratory was dealing with the tests in this case.

I believe, for public safety, that all suspect goods should be taken off the shelves of all retail outlets immediately, awaiting for the results of tests to be confirmed. To know that this abominable substance was carried and stored in sewage tanks is enough proof even to the layman that it must be riddled with disease. We must be reassured by the health authority that our children, who are most at

risk in these cases, are being guarded against contaminated food.

Give us, the public, some facts. Let us know what is being done. The majority of Jordanians are intelligent adults, with the right to be treated as such.

The passing onto the public of food unfit for human consumption has spread world-wide and is a criminal act perpetrated by people of sub-human mentality for financial gain. The crime is theirs alone. But hiding the facts from the citizens is a crime also.

The rumours making the rounds at the moment are frightening. Could not an official statement be issued to clear the air and give us back our faith in the authorities concerned?

A very apt adage which comes to mind seems appropriate in this instance.

"Things should not just be done, but should be SEEN to be done."

Mrs. M.M. Unazi
Amman

SEPT / SEPT

Le GOUVERNEMENT ISRAËLIEN est à nouveau menacé d'écroulement, après la visite-éclair du ministre de la Défense, Yitzhak Rabin, lundi au Caire. "Cette crise est définitive des autres, estimait-il y a deux jours le commentateur politique de la radio militaire, car elle porte non pas sur des querelles de personnes, mais sur la question centrale du processus de paix". Un sentiment renforcé mardi par les déclarations du premier ministre à l'issue d'un entretien à huis clos d'une heure avec M. Rabin. Yitzhak Shamir a notamment reconnu que des "divergences d'opinion" existent bel et bien au sein du cabinet. Le chef du Likoud a également fait savoir qu'il ne pourrait maintenir "à n'importe quel prix" la coalition avec le Parti travailliste, en place depuis 1984. L'avertissement est à peine déguisé, comme le notait le jour même le quotidien indépendant "Haaretz", selon lequel la droite n'exclut pas de provoquer des élections anticipées afin de reléguer le parti de M. Peres dans l'opposition. Il est vrai que le tête-à-tête Moubarak-Rabin rend la cohabitation entre les deux formations de plus en plus difficile, sinon incompatible. Au Caire, le ministre israélien de la Défense s'est prononcé en faveur du "plan en dix points" du président égyptien, déjà qualifié la semaine dernière de "base" de négociations par Shimon Peres lui-même. La fracture est en ce point plus nette avec M. Shamir, qui rejette catégoriquement la "dangereuse" initiative d'Hosni Moubarak et refuse toute intégration de Palestiniens expulsés des territoires dans une délégation chargée de négocier les modalités des élections avec Tel-Aviv. Pour les travaillistes, le voyage du ministre chargé de la répression de l'Intifada aura au moins eu le "mérite" de resserrer les rangs à l'intérieur du parti. "Faucons" et "colombes" ont en effet décelé une trêve d'un moment et décidé de faire bloc derrière M. Rabin et Peres.

Les relations entre LA FRANCE ET L'IRAN ont également été marquées cette semaine par une relance des négociations entre les deux pays. A l'issue d'une visite de 48 heures à Téhéran, le secrétaire général du ministère français des Affaires étrangères a qualifié de "tourment" les entretiens qu'il a eus notamment avec le chef de la diplomatie iranienne. François Sheer et Ali Akbar Velayati ont fait part l'un de leur souhait d'un renforcement des liens entre Paris et Téhéran. Une détente qui, pour la France, passe par le règlement des contentieux financiers entre les deux capitales. Contentieux qui portent d'une part sur le remboursement d'une dette d'un milliard de dollars, contractée en 1974 par le régime impérial pour le projet nucléaire civil "Eurodif" et, d'autre part, sur le montant de l'indemnité à verser par l'Iran aux entreprises françaises en dédommagement des contrats rompus après la révolution islamique de 1979 et que Paris évalue à plus de 2 milliards de dollars. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Fuite de gaz. Une "négligence" est à l'origine de l'importante fuite de chlore, qui s'est produite samedi soir à l'usine de la "Jordan chemical industries company" à Zarqa. C'est ce qu'a indiqué dimanche, sans plus de détail, le procureur général de la ville, Ahmed al-Khatib. 129 personnes, légèrement intoxiquées par les émanations de gaz, ont toutes regagné leurs domiciles selon les autorités. L'enquête menée par trois médecins du département de l'Environnement a par ailleurs révélé que l'usine ne répondait pas aux normes de sécurité en vigueur dans le pays.

Israël-Hongrie. Tel Aviv et Budapest ont officiellement rétabli leurs relations diplomatiques lundi dernier à l'occasion de la visite en Hongrie du ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, Moshe Arens. La Hongrie est le premier pays de l'Est, exception faite de la Roumanie, à renouer avec l'Etat hébreu depuis la guerre de 1967. Le même jour, l'Autriche a annoncé qu'elle réduisait ses relations diplomatiques avec Israël en remplaçant son ambassadeur à Tel Aviv par un chargé d'affaires. Motif invoqué par Vienne: le refus israélien de nommer un ambassadeur dans la capitale autrichienne depuis l'élection de Kurt Waldheim à la présidence de la République en 1986.

Rendez-vous. Le plénum du Comité central du Parti communiste soviétique a annoncé mardi que le 28e congrès ordinaire du parti se réunirait en octobre 1990. Avancé de six mois, à la demande de Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, le congrès devra désigner le nouveau Comité central du PCUS. Une occasion pour le numéro un soviétique d'y renforcer la position des partisans de sa politique de réformes.

Peine capitale. Amnesty International a lancé hier un appel aux gouvernements chinois, irakien, sud-africain, américain et soviétique afin qu'ils renoncent à appliquer la peine de mort. Cet "appel spécial" de l'organisation internationale de défense des droits de l'Homme, qui a recensé dans le monde au moins 1.600 exécutions pendant les huit premiers mois de l'année, intervient à l'occasion du lancement d'une semaine d'action contre la peine capitale. Amnesty estime qu'un changement dans ces six pays pourrait "renverser la tendance" dans le recours aux exécutions "cruelles et arbitraires".

Drogue. Un mandat d'arrêt a été lancé lundi par le tribunal de Bogota à l'encontre de deux anciens militaires israéliens, Yair Gal Klein et Arik Acek. Les deux hommes, accusés d'association de malfaiteurs, sont poursuivis dans le cadre d'une enquête sur la participation présumée de mercenaires étrangers à l'enlèvement de tuteurs à gages au service des trafiquants de drogue colombiens. L'ancien secrétaire au Trésor américain, Donald Regan, a pour sa part proposé lundi que le gouvernement modifie la couleur ou la taille des billets de 50 et 100 dollars.

Près de 324 millions. L'Europe de Douze comptait 323.753.000 habitants au 1er janvier 1987, selon le dernier calcul homogène à toute la Communauté publié dans la revue mensuelle de l'institut français INED (Institut national d'études démographiques), "Population et Société". Le pays le plus peuplé restait l'Allemagne fédérale (61,1 millions d'habitants), suivie de l'Italie (57,3), de la Grande-Bretagne (56,9), de la France (55,6), loin devant le Luxembourg (0,37). Selon l'INED, le taux européen de natalité était de 11,8 pour mille (contre 11,9 en 1986) et le taux de mortalité de 9,9 pour mille (9,1 en 1986). 27,1% des Européens avaient moins de 19 ans et 19,1% plus de 60 ans.

Grève. La grève, entamée le 5 septembre en France par les ouvriers de la firme automobile Peugeot s'est durcie en début de semaine avec la menace, brandie par le personnel d'encadrement, de se joindre au mouvement, si la direction continuait à refuser l'ouverture de négociations. Les syndicats réclament des hausses de salaires mensuels de l'ordre de 250 francs à 1.500 francs (37 à 224 dollars), suite aux bénéfices records enregistrés par le constructeur en 1988 et estimés pour 1989. Selon la direction de Peugeot, la grève aurait déjà coûté 100 millions de dollars à l'entreprise.

Extrémisme écroulé. Le président du Parti nationaliste français et européen (PNFE), groupuscule d'extrême droite, a été écroulé samedi dernier à Paris pour incitation à des attentats racistes. Claude Cornilleau, 53 ans, est soupçonné d'avoir encouragé deux attentats commis contre des foyers de travailleurs immigrés sur la Côte d'Azur (sud de la France), qui s'étaient soldés par la mort d'un locataire.

Guerre cathodique. La bataille fait rage pour le contrôle de la cinquième chaîne de télévision française, la Cinq, entre son président actuel, Robert Hersant, et le "roi" du petit écran italien, Silvio Berlusconi, allié au puissant industriel français Jérôme Seydoux. Le premier, (25% des actions) a fait annuler lundi dernier par le tribunal de commerce de Paris un conseil d'administration convoqué sur l'initiative des seconds et qui devait consacrer l'accession du tandem Berlusconi (25%)-Seydoux (7,28%) à la tête de la Cinq. La chaîne, qui occupe aujourd'hui le troisième rang des téléfrançaises, avec environ 15% d'audience, a accumulé 1,7 milliards de francs (254 millions de dollars) de pertes en deux ans d'exercice.

Ateliers de création, marketing, études de marchés...

Les premiers pas de la pub moderne

Plutôt discrète depuis trois ou quatre ans, la publicité reprend peu à peu du poil de la bête. La majorité des 57 agences et producteurs indépendants ont aujourd'hui adopté le langage de la «modernité». Aux campagnes d'imitation des slogans venus d'ailleurs, ils substituent leurs propres créations. Mais les jeunes loups doivent se battre pour convaincre les entreprises de l'impact de la pub, et jongler sans cesse avec les tabous.

Tout reste à faire. Qu'ils aient trois semaines ou quinze ans de métier derrière eux, les professionnels jordaniens de la publicité portent peu ou prou le même jugement sur leur métier dans le royaume. La crise économique aidant, nombre d'entre eux entendent donner ses lettres de noblesse à leur profession. Avec un seul mot d'ordre à la bouche: modernité. "Il faut en finir avec les mauvaises habitudes prises pendant les vingt dernières années, clame Haitham Ajloui, et qui consistent à obéir au doigt et à l'oeil au client, sous prétexte que c'est lui qui paye". A 32 ans, cet ancien ingénieur en télécommunication, formé aux Etats-Unis, fait figure d'archétype de la nouvelle génération des publicitaires du royaume. Avec la bénédiction et un coup de pouce financier de l'entreprise OKI, dont il est le concessionnaire à Shmeisani, cet "autodidacte du marketing", comme il aime à se dire lui-même, a créé sa propre agence en juin 1988. Baptisée "al-Raedi" (Le Pionnier), sa société entend à la fois fournir aux industriels du pays la première banque de données exhaustive des compagnies nationales ou multinationales et des "ouvrirs au marketing moderne". «A eux de prendre conscience qu'il y a de leur survie, affirme l'ambitieux patron d'al-Raedi. Si un client exige que nous soyons dociles et que nous nous plions à toutes ses décisions, nous disons non», poursuit-il. Comme la plupart de ses concurrents, Haitham Ajloui croit à la création et admet qu'il appartient aussi aux publicitaires "d'éduquer les entreprises". «C'est à nous de leur faire comprendre la nécessité de planifier une campagne publicitaire, de discuter des objectifs, du public visé, des meilleurs supports». Même son de cloche à la «Jerusalem advertising agency-Intermarkets» (JAAI) numéro un en Jordanie, avec 40% du marché (1), et au Moyen-Orient, depuis son association en 1983 au leader mondial, le britannique «Saatchi and Saatchi». Voilà 19 ans que nos réalistes et nous avons encore à expliquer à nos clients jordaniens que ce publicité veut dire et l'importance des stratégies en matière de marketing, reconnaît son directeur et fondateur,



Haitham Ajloui (à gauche), archétype de la «nouvelle génération des publicitaires, qui ne croient pas du tout à l'affichage publicitaire et se concentrent sur la télévision.

Bassem Dajani.

La crise, allié objectif?

Les patrons d'al-Raedi et de JAAI partagent également le sentiment que la crise financière et économique, qui va croissant depuis 1985, a facilité la tâche didactique des publicitaires. «L'austérité a d'abord mis fin aux gaspillages, explique Bassem Dajani. Aujourd'hui, le client tient à discuter avec nous, à connaître notre avis de professionnels». Plus pragmatique encore, Haitham Ajloui voit dans les déboires de l'économie jordannienne, le début de l'âge d'or de la pub, «la vraie». «Le gâteau se réduisant, les sociétés sont obligées de se battre avec deux fois plus d'acharnement. Elles se rendent compte peu à peu que la publicité, donc leur image de marque, constitue l'un des éléments incontournables de leur survie».

Le petit nuage rose, que les agences de publicité croient d'ores et déjà apercevoir à l'horizon, n'apparaît cependant pas aussi évident à tout le monde. Tony Sabbagh, consultant en

marketing depuis le début des années 1989 considère pour sa part que le marasme économique ne changera pas de fond en comble la mentalité des industriels et des distributeurs jordaniens. «Quelles que soit la situation du marché, il faut d'abord qu'un publicitaire prouve à son client l'impact de sa campagne, affirme-t-il. Beaucoup d'agences ont sombré par un coup d'essai, à très petite échelle. Une fois opérée la connexion entre publicité et augmentation des ventes, on peut penser à un budget annuel».

Autre ombre indéniable au tableau: la récession a plus réduit le nombre de clients qu'amener de nouvelles entreprises à la publicité. Une tendance dont ne souffre guère JAAI, pour laquelle le marché national arrive loin derrière les pays du Golfe. D'autres, comme Arab Tele Media (ATM), spécialisée dans la production de spots commerciaux pour la télévision, reconnaissent que l'arrêt brutal des importations s'est traduit par une chute vertigineuse des commandes. «Des quelque 300 spots publi-

taires que nous avons produits depuis la création de la société en 1982, 230 l'ont été entre 1984 et 1987», souligne le directeur d'ATM, Adnan Awamleh. De puis un an, c'est le grand vide. Un vide d'autant plus impressionnant que parmi la quinzaine de clients réguliers d'ATM figurent la Royal Jordanian, Fine, Pepsi et la majorité des grands hôtels d'Amman. «Il y a encore deux ans, on voyait des séquences publicitaires d'une vingtaine de spots à la télévision», ajoute le directeur de la JAAI, selon lequel le petit écran représente plus de 60% du marché de la publicité en Jordanie.

Contourner les interdits

Rares sont en effet les publicitaires qui croient à l'affichage publicitaire. «Ce sont des emplacements achetés aux municipalités, qui coûtent 100 à 120 dinars par mois et qui tombent rapidement en ruine», estime Bassem Dajani. Quant aux journaux, ils sont bien plus chers, selon Adnan Awamleh. «Une page du «Raï» coûte 600 dinars et vous aurez un mal fou à savoir quel public vous allez

toucher. Alors qu'on sait que plus de 70% des Jordaniens regardent la télé à 20h30 (2). A 300 dollars les 30 secondes, vous y gagnez à tous les coups».

Restent la censure et les interdits. L'utilisation quasi systématique de la femme dans la publicité ne va pas sans poser de sérieux problèmes aux agences jordaniennes. «Il est bien sûr hors de question d'avoir un modèle en bikini ou à moitié nu», confesse Bassem Dajani. Toucher la subjectivité des gens passe donc par l'intermédiaire d'autres symboles, «comme l'eau, les fleurs, la nudité d'une main», poursuit Haitham Ajloui.

Quant aux campagnes «choc» ou à épisodes comme on les voit couramment s'étaler sur les murs des cités occidentales, certains, comme le patron d'al-Raedi y croient. D'autres, tel Bassem Dajani, les estiment «trop chères pour un pays du tiers-monde». Le directeur de la JAAI préfère se pencher sur les moyens de jouer avec les tabous. «En 1983, je me suis battu pendant six mois avec la JTV pour passer une publicité pour les services hygiéniques. On a fini par y arriver malgré de nombreuses lettres de télespectateurs indignés». Son autre objectif étant d'arriver un jour à voir «se dissocier les agences de pub des agences de placement».

Alain Renon.

19 morts de la Guadeloupe à Porto-Rico

Le cyclone Hugo ravage les Caraïbes

Le cyclone Hugo, qui a touché lundi dernier l'île de Porto-Rico, avançait toujours, hier soir, en direction des Bahamas et de la Floride. En cinq jours, les vents, de plus de 200 kilomètres par heure, ont fait au moins 19 morts et des dizaines de milliers de sans-abris.

Avec un front de 80 kilomètres de largeur et des rafales de vent atteignant les 250 km/h, "Hugo" est le plus violent cyclone que les Caraïbes aient connus ces dix dernières années. Depuis samedi, la tempête a provoqué la mort de 19 personnes, dont 6 sur la seule île de Porto-Rico (3,3 millions d'habitants), dernière victime du cataclysme.

"C'est la pire catastrophe depuis 50 ans", a déclaré lundi James Fuster, délégué à la Chaire des représentants du territoire associé aux Etats-Unis, en ajoutant que le cyclone avait fait 5000 sans-abris. Les vents ont emporté de nombreux toits, notamment dans la capitale San Juan, retourné des voitures et projeté de gros blocs de béton dans les rues. Les pluies diluviennes qui se sont abattues en quelques heures ont également inondé tous les bas quartiers de la ville, où des cas isolés de pillage ont été rapportés. Selon les autorités portoricaines, une dizaine de personnes ont ainsi été arrêtées par la police, qui patrouille depuis trois jours dans les rues de San Juan.

Samedi et dimanche, la Guadeloupe (328.000 habitants) avait subi pendant vingt heures les effets dévastateurs d'"Hugo". Semant la désolation et la ruine sur la majeure partie de la plus grande île française des Antilles, le cyclone a fait 5 morts, 85 blessés et entre 10.000 et 20.000 sans-abris. A Pointe-à-Pitre, de nombreuses infrastructures, dont l'aéroport, ont été considérablement endommagées.

Commencé à Porto-Rico, les principaux problèmes posés par la tempête concernent le rélogement des sinistrés, l'alimentation de la population en eau potable, le déchargement des routes et le rétablissement des lignes téléphoniques ou électriques, endomma-

gées à plus de 80%. 60 pompiers et secouristes, qui avaient participé aux missions françaises envoyées au Mexique et en Amérique après les tremblements de terre, sont arrivés sur place dimanche soir, l'île voisine de la Martinique, relativement épargnée.

La situation restait encore dramatique hier sur l'île de Monserrat où 6 habitants ont également trouvé la mort dimanche. 95% des habitations ont été sérieusement endommagées, mettant l'immense majorité des 12.000 résidents de la colonie britannique à la rue, sans abri et sans vivres. La marine nationale anglaise a aussitôt dépêché l'un de ses bâtiments qui a pu entamer lundi soir une aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Deux personnes ont par ailleurs été tuées à Antigua, dont l'aéroport était encore fermé hier. Des dégâts considérables ont enfin été enregistrés à Sainte-Croix et Saint-Thomas, où se concentrent la plupart des 106.000 habitants des îles Vierges. Aucun bilan n'a cepen-

dant été fourni par les autorités locales.

Depuis lundi soir, l'œil du cyclone se trouve à nouveau au-dessus de l'océan Atlantique, où, selon les météorologues américains, il a repris de la vigueur. Après avoir menacé la République dominicaine, "Hugo" a pris le chemin des Bahamas, vers lesquelles il progresse à une vitesse d'environ 16 km/h.

La Floride et les Carolines pourraient également faire partie des prochaines victimes du cyclone. Etudiant avec minutie la progression de la tempête, les responsables de la Nasa, l'agence spatiale américaine, envisagent mardi de suspendre momentanément ses activités. Le lancement de la fusée Atlantis, prévu pour le 12 octobre depuis Cap Canaveral, pourrait ainsi être reporté, si "Hugo" s'approche trop dangereusement de la côte Est des Etats-Unis. (D'après agences).

(*) En 1979, le cyclone "David" avait fait 1.200 morts dans les Caraïbes.

Plus vrai que nature

Issam, peintre en photographie

Artiste, Issam Pest jouit d'un bon bout de plume. Peintre depuis sa plus tendre enfance, ce jeune Palestinien d'Herzliya a mis au point un service d'expressions originales. A l'aide de couleurs importées de Chine et d'un peu d'émotion, il met en couleurs des photographies de presse et de la vie. Tous les studios d'Amman lui confient les commandes de leurs clients, qu'il exécute à un rythme effréné. Plutôt cocasse.

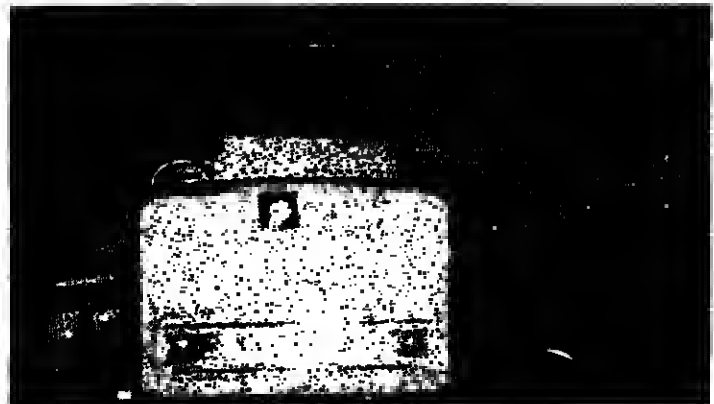
Une boîte de peinture à l'eau, dans laquelle trempent une dizaine de lamelles de papier colorant; ses pinceaux, ses crayons à portée de main; un rectangle de contreplaqué sur lequel il travaille; quelques photos de cinéma et des portraits peints au mur; le tout dans un minuscule coin, entre le magasin, le studio et le laboratoire. C'est là qu'Issam Shashin passe quotidiennement 17 à 18 heures, 7 jours sur 7, à peindre quidams, personnalités, quand ce n'est pas le roi lui-même.

Avec des gestes précis et rapides, il passe le pinceau, puis le doigt et un chiffon humide sur le cliché imbibé, agrandissant d'une photo qu'on lui a apportée ou qu'il a lui-même faite. A vous de lui indiquer les couleurs dans lesquelles vous souhaitez vous voir représenté ou de laisser libre cours à son imagination. Le résultat est un tantinet réaliste, avec une patine digne des grands débuts du Technicolor.

Photographe et peintre, Issam est depuis 5 ans la pierre angulaire de "Garanta Studio". Son patron et ami, originaire comme lui d'Herzliya, sait qu'il lui doit le succès de son commerce, où la clientèle défille sans cesse. "Tous les magasins de photos d'Amman

Shopping

A l'écoute des années 50



Telefonika, modèle 762 BK, conçu pour "être alimenté par batteries, soit au moyen de piles sèches, soit par un accumulateur de 6 volts pour voiture, combiné avec un convertisseur Telefonken Stv 769". La notice est un peu jaunie mais le poste de radio, fabriqué en 1952, est lui parfaitement neuf. Foi de Léon G. Orfali, qui, à 70 ans, tient sans doute l'une des boutiques les plus insolites du vieux Amman. Son fonds de commerce: plusieurs centaines de grosses radios, quelques électrophones et magnétophones à bandes, le tout garanti années 50. La plupart des appareils se trouvant encore emballés dans leur emballage au fond du petit magasin labyrinthique. Ancien concessionnaire de la marque allemande, Léon Orfali s'est retrouvé converti en "antiquaire" pour raison... de tron de mémoire. "Je me suis installé ici avec mon frère en 1946", explique-t-il dans un français plus que correct, appris "chez les frères" de Jérusalem. "A l'époque, nous importions les radios via le Liban. Dans les années 60, on s'est mis à fabriquer et à vendre des pâtes alimentaires. Les cartes se sont retrouvées entassées dans un coin, et on les a tout simplement oubliées". Un oubli qui a transformé la boutique de l'électricien arménien en caveau d'Ali Baba pour amateur de la TSF d'après guerre. Heureux de son "anniversaire", Léon Orfali n'en est pas moins commerçant. "Je connais la valeur de ma marchandise", avertit-il. En clair, vous ne trouverez rien chez lui à moins de 160 dinars. Qu'il réponde au doux nom de "Caprice", "Atlanta" ou "Bandola", vous pouvez cependant être sûr que le poste que vous choisissez est en parfait état de marche. A défaut de vous mettre en frais, entrez toujours jeter un coup d'oeil et demandez à l'occasion au maître du lieu de vous mettre dans l'oreille quelques minutes de votre émission de radio favorite sur le poste qui trône, en démonstration, sur un réfrigérateur.

A.R. Garanta Studio, près de la mosquée Al-Husseini. Tél: 632662. Le magasin se trouve en basse ville, à deux pas de la librairie Istiklal (sur le même trottoir).

Mots croisés

par Florence Montell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.
1: fredonnes. 2: cuire; confort. 3: au bout des pieds. 4: dans la vessie; religieux. 5: pierres encastées; brème. 6: donne la mort; ancienne Saïda. 7: vieilles robes; anacore. 8: couche. 9: avant approuvé; sujet. 10: dans la fleur.

Verticalement.
A: craque sous la dent. B: abominable; note. C: séduites. D: réfré; virage de ski. E: rangées. F: hypothèses; département français. G: fait voler les Américains; dût. H: négation; décorées. I: spécialité; sacré. J: plantée; épreuve.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA
Ragtime, de Milos Forman, avec James Olson, Mary Steenburgen, James Cagney, Pat O'Brien et Elizabeth McGovern. Les aventures d'une famille des classes moyennes dans une petite ville américaine, prise dans les tourbillons du début du siècle.
Centre américain, jeudi 21 et dimanche 24 septembre à 19h00 (en anglais).

Trois Hommes à abattre, de Jacques Deray, avec Alain Delon et Pierre Dux (1980). Série noire (suite). L'incorruptible, découvert sur une route, n'a pas été victime d'un accident, comme le laissent croire les apparences. Il a été assassiné...
Centre culturel français, lundi 25 septembre à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Der Snob, de Wolfgang Staude, d'après la pièce de Carl Sternheim (1983). L'ascension vertigineuse et chèrement payée d'un pauvre étudiant, devenu un riche homme d'affaires dans le Berlin des années 1910.
Institut Goethe, samedi 24 septembre à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

Cinéma club, Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.
Jeudi 21: Missing; Nevada Smith; Al hadid (égyptien); All the precedent mean; La Maltrata; du Bestman français.
Vendredi 22: Cuba Giza ghetto (judois); Oklahoma crowd; Hanna K.; Redneck country.
Samedi 23: Randy; Sand beebies; Jewel of the South; (PNC); The way we were.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.
1: chantonnes. 2: rôti; aise. 3: orfèvre. 4: urine; abbé. 5: sertes; rée. 6: tue; Sidon. 7: lres; édit. 8: styx. 9: lu; items. 10: étiames.

Verticalement.
A: croûstille. B: horreur; ut. C: attitudes. D: nient; stem. E: trises. F: si; Ain. G: Nasa; dette. H: ni; brodé. I: es; bûni. J: semée; test.

From Taihang road to Spark programme

A backward mountainous region in China has succeeded in shedding poverty by teaching farmers to use simple agrotechniques.

By Jing Ruyue and Ma Jianming

ZHANG RUNSHEN, an agronomist of Hebei Agricultural University, met with strong resistance the first time he went to a village in western Hebei province, China, to teach villagers how to prune walnut trees. "We have only seen men get their hair cut, but never trees barbered," they declared.

It was only after repeated persuasions that the agronomist was allowed to try his skill on a sterile old tree. The following autumn, the tree produced twice as many walnuts as before. This so convinced the villagers that Zhang is now the most welcome guest in the region.

For Chinese agronomists and government officials, encounters like this are commonplace in many underdeveloped areas of China. It has finally dawned upon them that what the villagers most

need are often basic, rudimentary agrotechniques instead of costly, grand projects.

The understanding prompted the State Science and Technology Commission to launch in 1981 a cost-effective programme of developing mountainous areas. Hebei's Taihang mountain area was selected as the target region for its harsh natural conditions and generally poor living standards of the people there.

The programme has proved to be a success, according to Wang Zhengguo, director of the Office for Developing Mountainous Areas under Hebei provincial government. In the past eight years, the government invested only U.S.\$3 million in agrotechnique dissemination in the Taihang mountains, but increased economic returns during the same period totalled \$118 million and have kept growing at

annual rate of over \$27 million.

The investment went mainly to developing fruit cultivation and the establishment of small poultry and livestock farms. Altogether there are 15 projects covering walnut, persimmon, chestnut, Chinese date, wild jujube, pear, strawberry, watermelon, maize, rabbit, hen and mink, among others.

"To start with, we selected 500 experimental villages on the basis of their resources," Wang said. After being proved a success, technical training was spread to all other villages. As a result, such simple techniques as pruning, grafting and control of plant diseases and pests led to drastic growth in fruit production. The total output of fresh and dried fruits in the mountainous areas of Hebei more than tripled during the 1981-1988 period.

The same is true with poultry and livestock raising. In 1981, there were just 524 stud rabbits in the Taihang mountain area. Five years after the programme started, the area was raising 12 million rabbits in 1986 and earned

up to \$30 million by exporting frozen rabbit meat.

In the beginning, the Hebei provincial government sent 1,000 technicians to the Taihang mountains to train local farmers. After they left, the 30,000 trainees have taken their place. Unlike provincial agro-technicians who offered services free of charge, local agro-technicians are paid by farmers for training classes and other services. This has promoted production as well as the dissemination of agrotechniques.

An agro-technician, for example, is paid \$0.27-1.35 for pruning each tree and then he or she may sign a package contract with the farmer for caring for an orchard. "The farmers are eager to learn and willing to pay," said Agro-Technician Yuan Shufang, who has set up a service offering horticultural techniques.

Farmers have quickly shed poverty, Zhao Ping, a farmer in Gyucao Village, Chixian County, for example, was burdened with a debt \$1,613 before 1983. In that year, technicians from the county government helped Zhao set up a

breeding farm with 60 California stud rabbits. Three years later, Zhao had not only paid off his debts, but also saved 6,000 yuan, which enabled him to build a big house for his seven-member family and purchase things he had dreamed of such as wrist watches, a bicycle and a sewing machine.

Per capita annual income in Zhao's village has risen to more than 600 yuan, higher than the national average. "The key to success in these mountainous areas is the use of basic agrotechniques rather than investing in costly projects such as reservoirs and soil improvement," Wang Zhengguo said.

The programme in Hebei is hailed as the "Taihang Road" and is being copied in many other mountainous areas. Success builds on success. With money earned from a diversity of occupations, farmers in Taihang mountains have started their own processing industries. Currently at least 100 canning factories operate there, each producing an annual output value of more than \$1.35 million.



A small rabbit breeding farm built on the roof of a farmer's house in Daloushan Village

in the Taihang mountains, Hebei province, North China.

Ma Tongnian, a young farmer in Tangxian County, owns one of the largest of these fruit canning factories. It produces an annual output of more than \$2.7 million and exports more than 500 tonnes

of canned fruit to Hong Kong and southeast Asia a year. It is no wonder that the "Taihang Road" is the precursor of the national "Spark Programme" aimed at transforming rural

China by a wide dissemination of agrotechniques. The name of the programme comes from a Chinese proverb: "A single spark can start a prairie fire" — China features

Messages for life

By Diana Smith

CHILDREN are dying all over the developing world. Not from neglect, nor from poverty alone, but because parents do not have the knowledge to deal with their child's health problems — so argues a new document from UNICEF.

"Children are dying as a result of a failure to communicate," says James Grant, head of the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. "Parents and families, properly supported, could save two-thirds of the 14 million children who die every year — if only they were properly informed and

motivated."

So UNICEF and two other U.N. agencies — the World Health Organisation and the U.N. Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) — have joined forces to fill the gap with an information campaign called "Facts for Life."

They recognise the difficulty of trying to reach parents directly so are targeting their campaign at communicators: local journalists, broadcasters, entertainers and others are to pass on the message. They first compiled a list of "Top Ten" issues which parents must know about: the timing of births; safe motherhood; breast-

feeding; child growth; immunisation; diarrhoea; coughs and colds; home hygiene; malaria; and AIDS.

Then they commissioned experts to research and produce concise manuals for communicators to highlight the messages to be circulated (also called *Facts for Life*), and techniques for doing this entitled *Health for All*.

The clear and attractively produced manuals were launched during the 19th International Congress of Paediatrics in Paris in July.

Speaking at the campaign launch, Dr. Mark Belsey, chief of Maternal and Child Health at

WHO, said the messages in the book were "the result of decades of research. Under the auspices of WHO, the findings of this research have been revived by scientists throughout the world who have concluded that they are scientifically sound, socially relevant and can be readily applied in every home and family."

The language is clear and direct. Each chapter tackles one of the ten priority messages opening with a note to communicators stressing why this issue is so important. There then follow seven headline messages on diarrhoea, backed up with detailed

descriptions of each important issue. Although, some critics argue that the manual is occasionally paternalistic in its approach and makes insufficient allowance for existing knowledge and skills, it has generally been well received as a major step towards the United Nations goal of health for all by the year 2000.

It is believed that never before has so much child health information been compiled and so succinctly presented in an 80-page booklet, or drawn on the talents of so many international advisers and institutions.

Until now, child health campaigns have suffered from too many different groups putting out inconsistent health messages. Thus, in Oman, officials who wanted to develop training materials on pre-natal care, had to set up a multi-sectoral task force involving every institution: they then had to thrash out a set of messages before work could begin on developing the teaching aids and information materials.

Facts for life
This should no longer be necessary. Since *Facts for Life* has

been produced with the help of leading health experts from all over the world, it can lay claim to a degree of universality — although local political, social and economic realities will determine the emphasis placed on some messages rather than others.

But the most effective media must also be mobilised to get message through to parents. This is the purpose of the second manual for communicators, *Health for All*.

It describes techniques and experiences which communicators can use, reaching out beyond the media and the teaching profession to non-governmental organisations, health workers, trade unionists, and to business, religious and government leaders and officials, artists and entertainers. Many examples are cited of practical ways in which these groups can use their skills to put over vital child health messages to the public at large.

One describes how 2,500 fieldworkers from the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) visited nine million homes to teach mothers how to



prepare simple yet life-saving oral rehydration solutions, using raw sugar and salt. BRAC followed this up with radio and television spots to reinforce the information. — PANOS.

Jackson Hole — superpower meeting place among eagles and elk

By Roger Fillion
Reuter

JACKSON — Jackson Hole is a far cry from Washington or Geneva, but this superpower meeting place where elk roam and eagles soar promises Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze a taste of old American west.

Shevardnadze, who meets U.S. Secretary of State James Baker there Sept. 22 and 23, has already been offered a ride in an authentic stagecoach, courtesy of Daryl Sparks, a former cowboy who, like many, has abandoned cattle herding for tourism.

Sparks, a lanky, tanned figure in traditional boots, blue jeans and cowboy hat, said: "I'd be glad to give anybody a ride," when asked if he would take Shevardnadze on his stagecoach.

Sparks is among many who cater to a thriving tourist trade in the once-sleepy cowboy town of Jackson, about 55 kilometres south of where Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials will meet a team led by Baker.

Sparks, who was a cowboy for most of his 60 years, symbolises

some of the "old west" the Soviet delegates will see in Jackson Hole, a 80-kilometre long valley surrounded by five mountain ranges.

He also epitomises the tourist boom in the area.

Shevardnadze, shown photographs of Jackson Hole by Baker during a previous meeting, was said to have been impressed by the beauty of the region and expressed a wish to see it.

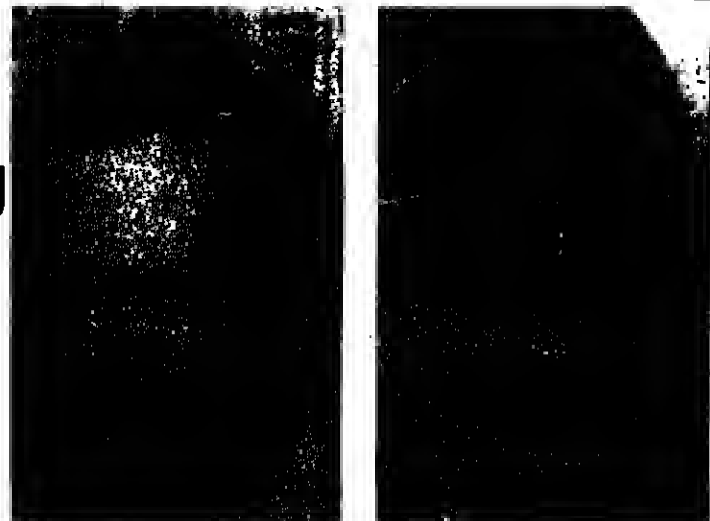
A range of mountains called the Teton Towers more than 2,100 metres above the valley floor. They were named by French trappers who, after months in the wilderness, thought they resembled large breasts.

But while beauty abounds, convenience does not. The Jackson Hole airport runway is just 1,900 metres long, too short for today's large jetliners.

Many associated with the talks, from delegates to journalists, are expected to travel by bus from airports in neighbouring Montana or Idaho.

But the Russians will have plenty of things to see and do in between meetings.

Jackson is a town of contrasts.



Baker

The wooden boardwalks and the elk antler arches decorating the main square are reminiscent of an old west town.

But the smart stores and boutiques that sell anything from turquoise jewellery to coyote skulls speak of the modern age.

"We've become a tourist trap," said Paul Walton, a 75-year-old rancher. "It's gone from a ranching community to a tourist community."

Off the western edge of square stands the "million dollar cowboy bar." Within its dim interior are cowboy murals, a stuffed grizzly bear and other animals. Horse saddles serve as bar stools, and 644 authentic silver dollars are embedded in one of the counter tops.

But there are some here who fear overexposure will only has-

Gorbachev

ten the development process that has turned ranch land into golf courses and resorts and sent real estate prices surging.

Len Carlman of the Jackson Hole alliance for responsible planning calls the superpower meeting a "mixed blessing," and laments the impact of the development.

"The off seasons aren't off anymore," Carlman says. "The highways are crowded and development is booming." Wildlife abounds within grand Teton national park. Moose wade belly-deep in the streams, surprising hikers. Bald eagles and the rare trumpeter swan are also found.

When all the superpower fuss is over, they'll still be there — along with the golfers, the skiers, the tourists and the cowboys.

Downey both offended and delighted

Joyce A. Venezia
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY — Morton Downey Jr. made a name for himself as the king of confrontation. But after two years of controversy, the most obnoxious show on American television is going off the air.

Downey's programme raised eyebrows, ire and, to a certain extent, social conscience. He also made people laugh and attracted adoring live audiences who appreciated his no-holds-barred style.

Guests knew they would be subjected to a verbally — and sometimes physically — abusive, opinionated Downey screaming close to their faces.

But stations that aired the non-network show might have grown weary of hitting the "bleep" button to eliminate the obscenities. And advertisers apparently were wary of appearing between segments of Downey's talk show. Without enough consistent advertising, it was dropped.

To many television critics, the cancellation is not a great loss. Others say Downey hazed the trail for "shock" television.

"The tradition of someone saying controversial things goes back a long way in radio. Mort Downey just passed beyond some

previous standards," said George Comstock, a public communications professor at Syracuse University.

"Downey's strong following began to deteriorate as he became more abrasive than he could handle with good humor," Comstock said. "The show began to slide from 'controversial but real' to 'ludicrous put-on.'"

Homosexual rights

Downey's reputation was not helped by the complaints and lawsuits filed against him and his show. In April 1988, Downey was acquitted on charges that he slapped a homosexual-rights activist.

Four months later, the editor of weekly newspaper filed a complaint that Downey suffled with him during a show and another four months later, Downey was sued by a radio personality who claims Downey assaulted him during a live panel discussion on gun control.

Most controversial was Downey's allegation that a group of skinheads attacked him in San Francisco airport. Scepticism arose when a former associate said Downey had been planning a press stunt to boost his show's ratings.

Jane Marion, an associate editor at TV Guide weekly magazine who has interviewed Downey several times, said that in reality,

Downey "is an extremely likeable man."

"Even he is tired of this persona he created," she said. "I don't want to say he sabotaged his own show, but he was ready to move on and he appealed only to a certain segment of the television audience."

Downey agrees that being Morton Downey was hard work, albeit satisfying.

"It was tiring for me to always be the aggressor," he said. "Never again, though."

Downey's unique talk show started out as a cable television item in 1987, and soon advanced to the masses via syndication in 1988.

"It was a quick burst, like a comet," said Howard Rosenberg, a television critic for the Los Angeles Times. "To me, he was the extreme. I predicted from the beginning that he would be gone within two years."

Ms. Marion said that Downey "came on the air like a steam train. It was trendy TV, and trends are born and die just as quickly."

Rosenberg found Downey's show "offensive and dangerous, not because of the ideas he espoused but because of the volatile environment he fermented. I'm glad he went off the air before anything dangerous happened."

Van Gordon Sauter, former executive vice president of the CBS broadcast group and former president of CBS News, said Downey was "a superb showman."

"But his concept was predicated upon hostility, and after a period of time, hostility becomes debilitating for the host and the audience," Sauter said. "His show was an oddity at first. Hostile shows tend to be aberrations on television."

Comstock said that Downey's show "restored some legitimacy to tabloid television by suggesting there are... limits."

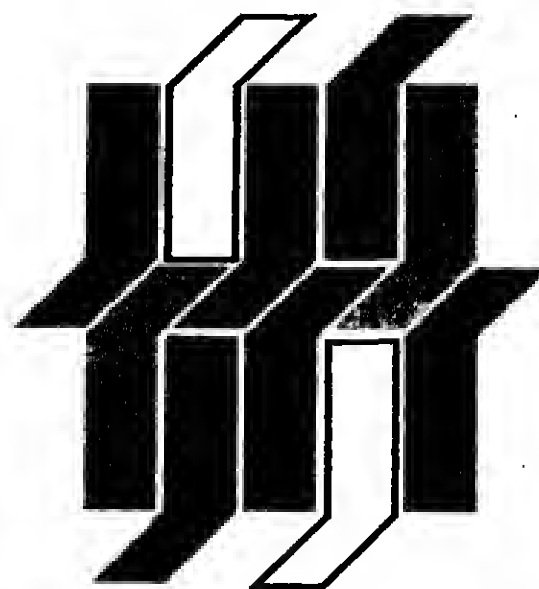
But Sauter said the show's cancellation "has nothing to do with its standards, but rather with whether the audience felt comfortable with the environment."

Downey said he thought his fans "saw the humor in the show, the entertainment value. They could see the smile on my face."

He said his company is working on a situation comedy called "that's my dad," featuring himself as one of the leads.

He also said he is working on a new talk show with a "new structure that would absolutely work. It would be radical, but not offensive."

Sauter thinks that would be seen as charade and it, too, would flop.



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Focus on People

Fitness for life

By Mariam M. Shahin

AS THE fitness and sports conscious around the world are becoming increasingly interested in the art of muscle-toning and body-building, Jordanians, young and old, men and women, are also opting to participate in this area of sports which is meant to lift their physical capabilities to new heights. Tarek Khourma, a young Jordanian who has been involved with sports since childhood, is doing his share in fulfilling the demand of those Jordanians who wish to attain those heights. This week Khourma talks to Focus on People.

WHILE physical fitness has been known throughout history to be beneficial to health, increase longevity, productivity and boost self-confidence, in the second half of the 20th century many people in Jordan and elsewhere have been caught up in the office routine. People sit at their office desks seven to 10 hours a day and afterwards exchange their office chairs for a lazy chair or a sofa at home. Lack of attention to physical education in schools and subsequently lack of physical fitness has been noted by educationalists and physicians in the Kingdom.

Creating awareness, however, is not an easy task. While more and more conscious walkers and joggers are visible in the southern districts of Amman, they are unlikely to represent a significant proportion of Jordanians.

During their school years, many young Jordanians, especially boys, actively involve themselves in sports of various sorts. Tarek Khourma, like many of his compatriots has always been interested in sports. Although he attended a Swiss-International school from 7th to 12th grade, he spent his summer vacations in Amman where he became Jordan's diving champion, a title which he retains to this day. While at school in Geneva, he was actively involved in track and field competitions and at one point became European school champion in the 100- and 200-metre sprinting event.

Although Khourma seriously considered becoming professionally involved with sports when he went to the United States to continue his studies, he eventually dropped the idea, graduating with a degree in business administration from a university in upstate New York.

After returning to Jordan, Khourma, now 25, like all Jordanian men of his generation, served in the Armed Forces for two years. He remembers telling his father that he had made plans with a Turkish classmate in the U.S. to work in the U.S. once he finished the military service. "My father didn't say 'don't go', instead he suggested that I stay in Jordan and start some sort of fitness club and that is precisely what I did," Khourma remembers.

With the financial backing of his father and in cooperation with his two brothers the "Power Hit" came into being. Located in central Smeisani on a plot of land consisting of four dunums the hut has become "the talk of the town" among the athletically conscious in Amman. While gymnasiums and work out places have sprung up all over the city, the hut stands out in certain aspects.

"We have created two shifts, one for women who represent about one fourth of our present clientele, and one for men. Women can work out from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. while the men's shift is from 3 p.m. to 10.30 p.m."

"At present we are planning to expand our work out facilities because to be honest, I didn't think that women would represent such a large portion of our clientele. The way things are going now in a year or two half of our clientele could be female."

"We offer food supplements to our clientele because they need it while they are working out. After the workout protein supplements are available. When people start becoming fit, they also need to start watching their diet. It is after all an essential part of being fit. We have two trainers who are at the hut throughout the shifts, one trainer for the women and another trainer for the men. They draw up a monthly programme for the client depending on their physical fitness and depending upon if they want to body build or tone their muscles."

Although most men join fitness clubs in order to become fit, "most of them end up working out with the intention of becoming body builders," Khourma says.

While the vast majority of the female clientele stick to becoming fit, one can see an increasing number of Jordanian men with bulging muscles, which the younger ones often like to show off in tight fitting t-shirts.

Khourma describes the workout as a "natural high," to which you can get addicted. "There is a challenge in working out on the different machines, there is always a few more kilos which could be lifted or a personal record to be broken," Khourma says.

According to his estimates, 80 per cent of those who joined the club five months ago are still members. The club is visited by an average of 100 clients daily. The regularity in which the client works out will be reflected through his fitness. The minimum number of times a week that an individual should work out is three. Some people work out every day but the average person comes to the gym every other day.

Recently, the Jordanian National Basketball Team and members of the squash team have begun working out in the gym on a regular basis. "Working out—or weight training in particular—increases your speed and performance in other sports, so naturally a lot of athletes join clubs such as ours," Khourma affirms.

Khourma hopes to expand the club on a yearly basis, in order to meet the increasing demand and growing awareness of physical fitness. The plans include squash courts, a swimming pool as well as more work out rooms.

Working out on a regular basis, makes you plan your whole day, increasing both the efficiency and productivity of a person. "Once you commit yourself to being fit by working out, your whole life becomes fit as well."

One of the machines at the hut is called a life cycle. It comes in the shape of a bicycle. The bike takes its rider through different speeds, some of which require him/her to exert the effort of someone going uphill, after which there is a straight cycle, followed by a downhill cycle... the rider keeps on going through the cycles of life.

Kenya and Tanzania: joining forces to fight the tsetse fly

KENYA and Tanzania have signed an agreement on a joint project aimed at controlling the tsetse fly, which infects one-third of the African continent. The fly transmits trypanosomiasis in man and livestock. Winnie Ogana reports from Nairobi.

The project's first phase will involve three months of research on the types of tsetse fly prevalent in the Kagera River basin. The basin spans Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. One exercise will be to map the areas where the fly breeds.

One quarter of Kenya is infested with the fly. Over 60 per cent of the land most suitable for livestock production is infested. Only heavy use of insecticides and drugs keeps animals alive.

The project will pave the way for the expansion of human settlement, arable land, livestock grazing areas and the development of transport and natural energy resources in affected areas.

There are 23 species of tsetse fly which infect over 10 million square kilometres of land in 37 African countries. The pest endangers the health and agricultural potential of over 350 million people, and puts 160 million head of cattle at risk — PANOS.



Bogota's funeral for presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan

Cocaine, guns and coffee: Why the Colombian drug war drags on

By Harold Othos
The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — In the 3-week-old drug war between the government and Colombia's billionaire cocaine barons, neither side has the upper hand. Some experts believe the stalemate could drag into the next century.

Despite daily bombings, shootings and arson, the traffickers have failed to intimidate the government. For its part, the government has been unable to root out top traffickers, who are in hiding and protected by private armies numbering 4,000 men.

President Virgilio Barco has told Colombians to brace for "more pain and suffering" and predicted the war will be "long and hard to win."

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said the violent standoff "will go beyond the year 2000" if the government continues a crackdown, launched after the Aug. 18 assassination of a popular presidential candidate.

Despite Barco's determination and \$65 million in U.S. military aid to fight the drug cartels, other factors could determine how long the bitter struggle lasts.

The main factor is the economy, which is heavily dependent on coffee.

Colombia exports coffee, coal and oil, and international prices for all three are nose-diving.

Coffee is a factor

Coffee is the top foreign exchange earner — almost \$1.5 billion last year — and its slumping prices are blamed on the insubstantiality of the United States.

Colombian government officials complain that what Washington gives with one hand, such as military aid to fight drug traffickers, the other hand takes away in coffee revenue.

Colombia blames the United States for the collapse of a 74-

nation agreement between coffee exporters and importers that had assured Colombians of decent earnings.

A 50 per cent drop in coffee prices — to about 88 cents per pound — is the worst slump since the great depression of the late 1920s. Colombia could lose \$200 million in coffee revenue this year.

As coffee income drops, there presumably would be less money for fighting drugs.

Last July, talks broke down after months of debate among the members of the international coffee accord to renew the agreement.

The member countries, including suppliers and purchasers, negotiate prices for one year. The trouble was that some coffee producers in the pact were selling at cheap prices to nonmembers; U.S. officials have said.

The United States said it would not support a new agreement until it got guarantees that purchasing countries outside the agreement would not get coffee for less than countries inside the pact.

In a letter to President George Bush, Barco said the lack of a new agreement setting export quotas will have "devastating consequences" on the Colombian economy.

"This is a grave crisis and requires immediate attention," Barco told Bush in the letter.

What neither Barco nor any other Colombian official has said will comment on is whether slumping cocaine sales also might have devastating consequences on the Colombian economy.

A cocaine dependency?

Since drug trafficking and its earnings are secret by nature, no one knows whether Colombia's economy has a cocaine dependency.

Studies by universities and other independent sources give

widely varying figures. Some studies say that drug money may account for between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent of the nation's gross national product of \$35 billion.

If it is as much as 3 per cent, that would be just over \$1 billion a year that Colombia's economy would lose if drug traffickers were driven out of Colombia.

But unlike coffee earnings, the drug money that enters the Colombian economy does not appear to generate jobs and to be vital to Colombia's economy.

Drug barons' investments in real estate in Colombia the last six years have been as high as \$5.5 billion according to story earlier this year in the Bogota daily El Tiempo.

After three weeks of crackdown, the Colombian armed forces have seized from drug traffickers properties worth over \$200 million. A U.S. narcotics official in Bogota said at a recent briefing, the Colombian crackdown has cut back cocaine shipments substantially, but that he had no idea exactly how much. "Twenty per cent, 50 per cent? I don't know," he said.

Members of the Medellin cartel, the world's most powerful cocaine organization, have carried out bomb attacks almost every day in that city since their declaration of war against the government and businessmen.

At least 10 people have been killed since the crackdown started following the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan Aug. 18.

The number of injured in terrorist attacks exceeds 150, including at least 84 injured when a powerful bomb went off near the Bogota newspaper El Espectador Sept. 2.

The Colombian armed forces at estimated 40,000 troops involved in the crackdown on drugs. The figure represents 20 per cent of their total manpower of 200,000 soldiers.

Virulent visitor spreading fast

By Christopher Mwalabanda

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — A tree species introduced into the renowned Usambara mountain region of north-east Tanzania is rapidly invading natural and logged forests. Scientists say the tree is a threat to the survival of indigenous species and is degrading the catchment of East Usambara on which 500,000 people in the Tanga region depend for their water supply.

The Usambara mountain forests are biologically unique, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Dr. Robert Benstead-Smith of IUCN has said: "The forested parts of these mountains are like a remote chain of islands, isolated from each other and cut off for millions of years from comparable forests in Central and West Africa."

In this isolation, says Wilson Kaigunda, "evolution has produced an array of distinct species, found there and nowhere else."

The fast-growing tree, *Messops emini* known locally as "muzizi", is native to Central and West Africa. It was introduced into Tanzania from Uganda where it is popular for timber production.

It was extensively grown for timber in East Usambara in the 1960s and 70s. Now, without even being planted, muzizi dominates secondary vegetation.

A researcher in the area, Pierre Binggeli says: "The invasion of a new tree species into tropical forest is most unusual. It has not been reported from other parts of the world."

Wherever muzizi grows there is little regeneration of primary trees, surrounding organic matter decreases and there is increased exposure of soil to erosion by run-off.

It is successful in colonising its new environment because of prolific seed production and wide-spread dispersal by a local bird, the hornbill, which relishes the fleshy seeds. It also grows at great speed.

At a workshop on the question held at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Binggeli recommended elimination of the tree in nature reserves and said muzizi plantations should be replaced by other hardwoods.

Not everyone agrees muzizi should be eliminated. A local forestry officer, Mwasha, points to its economic importance in the Tanga region.

"We have introduced the tree to sawmills and it is becoming popular," he says. "People are beginning to accept muzizi for furniture. Such uses would help reduce pressure on natural species currently cut for timber."

He says groups of villagers are ready to make use of muzizi in communal pit-sawing projects. Pit-sawing — sawing lengths of tree over a pit dug in the ground

— is a cheap technique using little technology which enables peasant artisans to cut up wood on the spot. It also reduces intrusion into the forest of heavy equipment.

It is possible to accommodate the arguments for and against muzizi. Although it is true that the new species has invaded spaces created by tree-felling in virgin forests, it is also true that muzizi has great potential for supplying the local population with timber, firewood and building poles, among many other uses.

According to the inventory management plan of the area, the quantity of muzizi available is enormous and could be harvested by village co-operatives while seedlings randomly dispersed by hornbills could be uprooted to control the invasion feared by scientists.

IUCN has a mission in the region to assist research and arrive at a policy which will preserve the natural forest, while allowing villagers to benefit from the sustainable development of this resource. The idea is that good management can control muzizi by exploiting it for productive purposes. However, elimination and replacement by less troublesome but equally fast-growing species, is not excluded.

The people of Tanga need water. Supply depends on the catchment quality of the Usambaras. But they also need wood and timber products to meet their needs and raise living standards. A balance between conservation efforts and sound management of the introduced species could be a good start for sustainable development in the region — PANOS.

Environment in the Indian elections

By Aisha Ram

DESPITE the Bhopal catastrophe, the environment is barely an issue in the run-up to India's general election to be held before the end of the year. To fill the gap, a Green Front of non-political groups has formed to inject ecology and environment to the forefront of the campaign.

Though environment and conservation had much support from Indira Gandhi — and later from her son, Rajiv Gandhi, the current prime minister — these issues have never figured as a major issue in elections.

There have been recent debates on the Narmada and Tehri big dams; Himalayan afforestation; wasteland restoration; and development of the Andamans, host to the last vestiges of India's tropical rainforest. And though India still has comparatively little nuclear energy capacity, there is a small, highly vocal lobby against its development.

Yet such concerns have barely split over into the political arena, even though parties are aware of increasing public interest in the environment.

Only the Congress (I) Party sees environment as a political issue in India. Though the Bhopal gas leak in 1984 claimed over 3,000 lives, political parties claiming to be progressive still champion unbridled industrial growth.

Mohan Guruswamy of the Janata Dal, India's main opposition party, says "Except for those immediately affected and the intellectual community that claims to be 'caring', Bhopal is already a forgotten chapter."

Factories will continue to be built and no one will protest till they are convinced that bad environment means bad economy.

To counter this apathy, 80 environmentalists, social activists and journalists have got together to draw up a "green document" which could serve as a platform for politicising environmental issues. They met at Anandwan, Maharashtra, at the ashram of Baba Amte, a respected social worker and Magsaysay Prize award-winner.

Baba Amte wants the "Green Front" to act as a massive pressure group and force political parties to take notice of the millions who suffer from the air degradation of the environment and the destruction wreaked by so-called development projects."

The Green Front says the 200 million people affected by development projects' environmental and social disasters could determine the fate of parties vying for power.

Sheila Dixit, a minister associated with policy planning in the Congress (I) Party, maintains it is the only one to espouse major environmental issues. Environment-related programmes will retain priority if it is returned to power, she says.

No implementation

On missed government targets for afforestation, river clean-ups and pollution control, Dixit says Delhi sets the targets and policies but state governments often fail to implement them.

Asked how an environmentally benign government sanctioned the controversial Narmada Dam

project which will displace 250,000 people, Dixit argues that local ecological and environmental damage has to be weighed against national economic benefits and prosperity.

"In the case of the Tehri Dam, for every tree felled, eight are to be planted," she says — but admits that implementation of these projects is not as fast or efficient as it should be.

To prevent air pollution and preserve slender forest reserves, the government is promoting a smokeless chulha (stove). From 1983 to 1989, 5.4 million smokeless chulhas have been installed in rural areas. Priority is being given to liquefied petroleum gas for hill areas to reduce the onslaught on forests. About 700,000 units of gas have been distributed between 1985 and 1989.

Contour building, fragile hillside afforestation and restoration of old water storage systems reflect Congress (I)'s concern for ecology, says Dixit. All over Uttar Pradesh slogans declare that by "Protecting the forests we are protecting mankind." Nurseries can be seen at roadsides and trees have been planted along canals to prevent water seepage and soil run-off.

Janata Dal (JD), headed by V.P. Singh, feels environmentalists are elitists who neglect people's needs. JD's Mohan Guruswamy says beffalo sanctuaries or clearing out nomadic cowherds from Rajaji National Park to save nature and tigers are seen as anti-people.

Janata has noted that Congress (I) obtained no political advantage from its project — PANOS.

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Gulf Arab states urge trade accord with EC

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states are urging the European Community, their main trading partner, to sign a trade accord allowing their infant industries access to Europe.

Officials in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) say they want EC businessmen to take part in joint ventures producing goods that could be completed and sold in Europe.

A trade agreement to follow up a preliminary pact signed last year was urgently needed to narrow a \$4.4 billion trade deficit in favour of the EC in 1988, they said.

"We want the EC to do two things," said Yusef Shirawi, Bahrain's minister of development and industry.

"We want them to allow our products to enter without customs duties... which they will refuse... and we want to embark on joint ventures with them so we can manufacture new products, which can freely enter Western Europe," he told Reuters.

Abdullah Al Quwair, GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, said joint venture projects between the two

groups could include pharmaceutical and chemical industries, agriculture, downstream metals and industrial maintenance.

"We believe the EC has a more crucial role to play in the industrialisation of the GCC... it is imperative to correct this serious trade imbalance," he said.

Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam said when invisible export items were taken into account, the EC's current account surplus with the GCC probably exceeded \$10 billion in 1988.

Quwair said the EC Commission understood the GCC position and was formulating its own. A trade and cooperation accord signed between the two groups in June 1988 was intended as an umbrella for a detailed pact, he said.

EC officials say the Community has an agreement with three Maghreb states — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia — which

allows goods with a minimum local content to enter Europe duty-free.

Quwair said there was a good chance Gulf states would begin putting protective tariffs on some imports if their own products were not allowed to compete. More than 43 per cent of GCC imports come from Europe.

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Most EC imports enter the area virtually duty-free. Cheaply-produced Gulf petrochemicals are effectively blocked from Europe by quotas and 12-to-14 per cent tariffs.

Gulf economists say the GCC is one of the largest markets for EC products, taking 16 per cent of the Community's exports in 1987. But in the same year Gulf exports dropped to five per cent of total EC imports from around 15 per cent in 1981.

Shirawi — who will head Bahrain's delegation to a dialogue with European businessmen in Spain next February — said Gulf states offered cheap



Abdullah Quwair

energy and manpower to partially manufacture products that could be completed in Europe.

"We want to diversify our economies and they want to protect theirs. The best thing is not to retaliate but to join them and manufacture with as much added value here as possible," he said.

Ibrahim Ibn Salamah, managing director of Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp told Reuters petrochemical firms in the Gulf were meeting counterparts in Europe to try to set up partnerships.

"We see our role as producers of raw materials, but we want to expand into intermediate and downstream industries, not necessarily in the Gulf," he told Reuters by telephone.

Thatcher bluntly tells Japan to open markets

TOKYO (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher bluntly told Japan Wednesday to open its markets or risk international retaliation.

In the keynote speech of a four-day visit to Tokyo, she told a meeting of economic organisations, "we are looking for a change in attitudes and ways of trading. A barrier is a barrier whether you call it a cultural difference or tradition or anything else."

Thatcher said Japan's position as an economic superpower had been made possible by free world markets.

But Japanese restrictions, barriers and subsidies "make it hard, even impossible, for some imports to enter Japanese markets," she said.

"Not surprisingly this causes resentment, resentment that can threaten the open world trading system by encouraging those who call for protectionism and by adding to the pressures on those of us who believe in free trade," Thatcher said.

She added: "Imports are an investment in keeping world trade open for Japan, as well as a contribution to quality of Japan's life."

Describing her remarks as frank, Thatcher gave the government as six-point shopping list of what the world expected from Japan.

These were the encouragement of consumerism, the scrapping of a managed retail distribution system, reduction of subsidies paid to farmers, changed attitudes to imports, greater flexibility of air services and liberalisation of financial markets.

"More open and unrestricted

competition in Japan would enable your consumers to enjoy high quality services at lower prices," she said, adding: "Encouraging more consumerism in Japan could help change deeply rooted prejudices about imports."

Thatcher said there was "an obvious contradiction" between Japan's highly successful drive to sell its manufactured goods overseas while putting up the shutters to foreign agricultural products and other imports.

"We cannot take the free trade system and open markets for granted," she said. "We have to preserve and extend what we have achieved, and Japan, as a pre-eminent economic power, has a particular responsibility in this regard."

"It sometimes seems to the rest of us that the benefits of the open trading system have been too much one way," she noted.

Thatcher praised steps Japan had taken in tax reform, budget consolidation and moves to boost domestic demand. But she said Japan should act to stop external complaints, "by carrying through structural reform more vigorously and removing all barriers to imports."

Thatcher said Anglo-Japanese ties had expanded broadly in recent years.

But she added: "The contrast between the openness of the United Kingdom economy and the restrictions that remained in Japan will continue to affect our relations until the problems I have mentioned have been dealt with."

"A solution must be, and indeed will be, found... the future prosperity of the free world

depends on it," she emphasised. The British leader urged Japanese businessmen to continue to invest in Hong Kong as in the best interest of Japan, Britain and China, which will take over the colony in 1997.

Thatcher earlier sampled Japan's technological revolution by taking a ride on a high-speed "bullet" train and touring an ultra-modern computer factory.

"I've tackled Mr. Nakasone about it, I've tackled Mr. Takeshita about it, I've tackled Mr. Kaifu about it," Thatcher said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. before her departure from London's Heathrow airport Monday.

She was referring to former prime ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone, Noboru Takeshita and Sosuke Uno.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government Tuesday adopted a five-year plan to promote foreigners' understanding of modern Japan, officials said.

The plan calls for training more Japanese-language teachers, helping promote modern Japanese arts and inviting research on Japanese culture, the prime minister's office said.

The plan is to start this year, but its precise schedule and budget have yet to be decided, said an official at the prime minister's office, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Encouraging international cultural exchange is no less important than political and economic contributions, Kyodo News Service quoted Kaifu as telling his cabinet, which approved the plan.

The government-backed Japan



Margaret Thatcher

Foundation established a 1.1 billion yen (\$7.53 million) Japanese language international centre in Tokyo this year to help meet increasing demand overseas to learn Japanese, the officials said.

He said the centre will be a headquarters for Japanese-language education overseas as it increases the number of qualified teachers over the next few years.

The government also plans to introduce modern Japanese arts overseas using international broadcasts and promotional videos and brochures to be made available through Japanese embassies and consulates, the official said.

"We've done enough advertisements on traditional ones, like Kabuki and Noh plays," he said.

Also planned are invitations to foreign journalists for short visits to Japan to become acquainted with Japanese culture, the official said, adding that the foreign ministry is particularly interested in inviting journalists from countries with relatively infrequent contacts with Japan.

He said the government is considering building a modern Japanese resource centre in the United States to give American researchers greater access to up-to-date information on Japan.

Wheat importers face continuing high prices

LUXOR, Egypt (R) — Wheat importers, including some of the world's poorest countries, are likely to continue paying relatively high prices this year for the staple element in their food supplies, U.S. experts say.

But importers will probably not face the sharp price rises seen early this year which sent shock waves through countries like Egypt, the experts told a conference on U.S. wheat exports to the Middle East and Africa.

"Even though world wheat stocks are quite low, it looks as if the price might be fairly steady in the period ahead," Donald Novotny, director of the grain and feed division at the U.S. Agriculture Department, told the conference.

"The last time world stocks were this low was in the early 1970s and prices were going crazy," said Winston Wilson, president of the U.S. producers group, U.S. Wheat Associates.

But he added: "We are probably not going to see significant price movements in the next few months."

As a result of the U.S. drought, world wheat prices soared to about \$170 a tonne early this year. Importing countries were having to pay between \$190 to \$200 a tonne against \$110 to \$120 a tonne two years ago.

For countries like Egypt, which buys huge quantities of wheat to keep its population supplied with bread, the price rise meant a tough squeeze on an already stretched budget.

Prices have now eased off to about \$150 a tonne and although world stocks of wheat are very low, lack of supply is unlikely to push up prices again.

High prices are expected to encourage farmers to grow more wheat, meaning bigger supplies and possibly a fall-off in prices a year from now.

"Probably by this time next

year we will see some lower prices around the world," U.S. Wheat Associates Vice President Vincent Peterson said.

But for poorer countries dependent on U.S. food aid and export credit programmes there is little hope of an increase in U.S. funds to pay for higher

Italy proposes power link with Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Italy's state electricity company has suggested linking the country's national grid with that of Tunisia through cables laid under the Mediterranean, Tunisian officials sources have said.

The president of Italy's electricity company, Franco Viezzolo, put the proposal to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali at a meeting in Tunis Tuesday, they said.

Ibn Ali recommended further studies on the project, which also envisages a new Tunisian power station running a natural gas or fuel oil.

The official Tunisian news agency TAP said such a link would be the first between electricity grids in Europe and North Africa. At the narrowest point, Tunisia and the island of Sicily are 145 kilometres apart.

Sudan hikes bread price

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese government has increased the price of bread by 20 per cent, Information Minister Ali Mohammad Shummo announced Tuesday.

Shummo told reporters that the new prices would go into effect as of Wednesday. The price of a loaf of brown bread, weighing 140 grammes has been raised from 20 Sudanese piasters to 25 piasters (0.80 cents to one cent).

An average Sudanese worker earns \$26 a month. He said the increase is part of a government's plan to ease the burden on the country's ailing economy.

The government's plan, Shummo said, include measures to decrease public expenditures, increase exportation and imposing price hikes of other government subsidised commodities.

"Citizens should play their part in reforming the national economy," Shummo said.

He said the government would "reconsider" the prices of sugar as from next November following the beginning of local sugar production season.

Edible oil and soap prices will also be reexamined, Shummo said without elaboration.

He said the increases will be coupled with making these commodities available.

Commodity shortages are common in Sudan, saddled with a \$13 billion foreign debt and a six-year-old southern civil war costing the Khartoum government an estimated \$1 million daily.

Pushing U.S. cigarette exports gets 'height of hypocrisy' label

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop Tuesday fired a parting shot at the American tobacco industry, denouncing U.S. government efforts to export cigarettes as "the height of hypocrisy."

Koop, whose tenure as the top U.S. government physician has been marked by attacks on cigarette smoking, said he had not cleared his remarks with U.S. President George Bush's administration before he testified at a hearing of the U.N. trade representative.

"I don't think what I said would be cleared," said Koop. "They wouldn't approve."

The hearing was called because of a request from the U.S. cigarette industry for U.S. government intervention to force Thailand to allow sales and advertising of American cigarettes there.

Koop, who is retiring Oct. 1, has previously attacked U.S. government pressure on Asian countries to import more American cigarettes.

He noted Bush's efforts to cut U.S. consumption of illegal drugs, including a call for their countries to stop producing smuggling of narcotics to the United States.

"When we are persuading foreign governments to stop flow of cocaine, it is the height of hypocrisy to export tobacco," Koop said.

Among witnesses were other physicians and scientists who call tobacco an addictive drug and consider tobacco exports a health and moral issue rather than a question of fair trade, as the industry contends.

Representing the industry before the eight-member committee was the U.S. Cigarette Export Association. The trade repre-

sentative is to decide the yearlong process by next May.

Koop told reporters after testifying he was rebuffed by the administration of former president Ronald Reagan when he opposed its efforts to open markets in Japan, Taiwan and South Korea to U.S. cigarettes.

"People throughout Asia will continue to buy and smoke billions of cigarettes each year with or without U.S. presence in the marketplace," said congressman Robin Talton of South Carolina.

The real issue is whether American companies will be allowed to compete, or if the playing field will be abandoned to other foreign manufacturers and local monopolies.

In 1988, U.S. tobacco exports contributed a record \$3.5 billion to helping reduce "this country's enormous trade deficit," said export association president Owen

Smith.

But congressman Chester Atkins of Massachusetts said in advance testimony the real issue "is about the American government using leverage and tax dollars to coerce countries into allowing marketing practices that were outlawed long ago" in the United States.

The petition seeks to force Thailand "to overturn a policy of banning cigarette advertisements" in print and broadcast media, Atkins noted.

The export association represents three major cigarette companies, Brown and Williamson, Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds.

Since 1986, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have opened markets to U.S. cigarette brands after being accused of unfair trade and threatened with retaliation against their products.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, September 20, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	92.2	93.1
U.S. dollar	610.3	616.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	416.8	421.0
Pound Sterling	925.9	965.0	Dutch guilder	276.2	279.0
Deutschemark	311.5	314.6	Swedish krona	92.2	93.1
Swiss franc	359.8	363.4	Italian lira (for 100)	43.3	43.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	149.0	150.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5735/45	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1830/40	Canadian dollar	
	1.9485/92	Deutschemark	
	2.1993/2000	Dutch guilders	
	1.6900/10	Swiss francs	
	40.79/82	Belgian francs	
	6.5975/6025	French francs	
	1405/1406	Italian lire	
	145.88/98	Japanese yen	
	6.5950/6000	Swedish crowns	
	7.1075/125	Norwegian crowns	
	7.5800/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	360.80/361.20	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market cold-shouldered Bond Corp's plan to sell half its stake in brewing assets, marking down Bond's shares. The All-Ordinaries Index fell 12.0 points to 1,734.0.

TOKYO — Prices closed mixed in light trading. The Nikkei Index was off a scant 0.49 points to close at 34,470.58.

HONG KONG — Prices rose slightly. The Hang Seng index gained 4.48 to 2,632.78.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed lower for the third day as profit-taking pushed prices down on a broad front. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 4.30 points to 1,394.97.

BOMBAY — Profit-taking trimmed an early rally for the second successive day after buyers and state-owned investment institutions pushed the market up.

FRANKFURT — Investors moved out of blue chips and into specialty stocks or were sidelined by interest rate concerns. The 30-share Dax Index fell 1.27 points to 1,612.87.

PARIS — Phone-Poulenc's investment certificates fell 32 francs to 544 as analysts questioned how it would finance two foreign acquisitions. The 50-share price indicator ended the day unchanged.

LONDON — A 12-point fall on the FTSE index brought out buyers and by 1600 GMT the index was up 8.3 at 2,569.8.

NEW YORK — Fears about the junk bond market receded and some takeover stocks revived but a downturn in the dollar and weaknesses in bond prices erased the gains. At 1557 GMT the Dow industrials were down 0.21 at 687.12.

THE BETTER HALF.

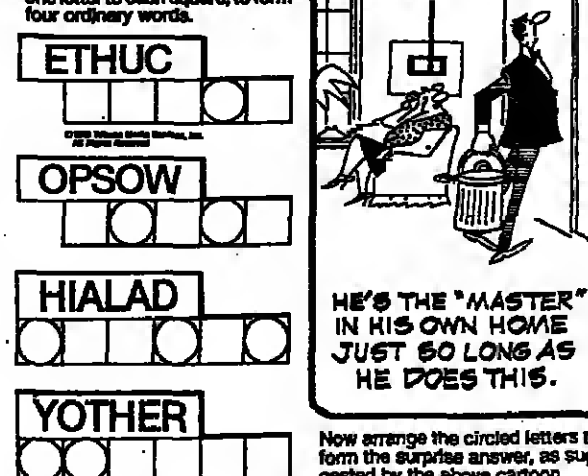
By Harris



"Sometimes Stanley comes home from work so tired I have to help him chew."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: HE'S
(Answers Monday)
Yesterday's Jumbles: PUPIL CABIN GASKET BUCKET
Answer: When all is said and done, some people just do this—KEEP ON TALKING

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



5 1st division teams beaten in league cup

LONDON (AP) — Five first division teams, including third-placed Coventry, were upset Tuesday in the second round, first leg of the English League cup soccer competition.

Millwall, Manchester City, Crystal Palace and Derby also were beaten by lower-division teams while mighty Liverpool was down 1-2 against tiny Wigan

after scoring four second-half goals.

Coventry suffered the worst defeat of the big shots, going down 3-1 at fourth-division Grimsby.

David Gilbert opened the score at 10 minutes and Tom Watson stunned Coventry with a second just after halftime.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Not a day to vary the schedule or to indicate to associates that you expect to make some drastic change in the programme. Carry through with what you have started, you will do and be respectful.

ARIES: You will be able to fit every detail of your work into its proper place today. There will be several projects available now by which you can add to your income.

TAURUS: Your creative ideas for making more money are splendid now so follow them. Both men and women who are talented will lead you a hand at your work today.

GEMINI: You seek adventure at your recreation today, but don't take too many risks or chances. Whatever you will do today should be of a very basic nature.

MOON CHILDREN: You will need to meet with friends quietly to work out amusements for the future. A change in your work that you had planned has been delayed but don't get upset.

LEO: Listen to the valuable suggestions being given you by a good friend to a better job at your work. Your social life can be whatever you wish to make it today.

VIRGO: Lead a hand to social friends who are having a difficult time and you can then enjoy yourself. Listen to the advice of an

influential man and an unusual woman for having more assets.

LIBRA: Expertise necessary to your advancement is not just yours, but pervasive and it will be. Avoid hasty, impulsive investments for they could lose you the shirt off your back.

SCORPIO: You will need to call upon your past experiences to do a good job at your work today. You will gain security now by handling all obligations with good common sense.

SAGITTARIUS: A condition from a distance comes up giving you a chance to make more money. You will have several courses that you can pursue at work. Do as much as is possible.

CAPRICORN: You have many persons who are willing to give you good ideas for your work today. You will also have the chance for some interesting new pleasures by uniting with new associates.

AQUARIUS: A successful friend will give you an idea for increasing your income. You will be able to enjoy yourself immensely at a recreation a good friend tell you about.

PISCES: You will be able to have a good time at play today so long as you do not over-play and get fatigued. You will be able to add well to your income by something you get for your home.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a really good day for you to express your talented nature without fear of encountering a lot of bothersome restrictions. You are especially good with anything original and progressive.

ARIES: A change in your perspective at your job can be most helpful to you at this time. You will be wise to get into statements and reports to get the answers that can be helpful to you financially.

TAURUS: You will now be able to get some extra money if your job has been well done. Your best time will now come from some family friends who are quite fond of you.

GEMINI: Don't hold so tightly to accepted procedures but now be sure to put your own ideas into your work. Invest your money now instead of extravagantly spending.

MOON CHILDREN: You will need to be alert to changing conditions to do your best at work now. Much pleasure is possible in your recreation now but you need to direct your energies wisely.

LEO: You will now have the opportunity to benefit through some generous and warm-hearted friends. You are very disappointed at your work today but will do well if you just maintain the status quo.

VIRGO: Don't take that trip just to have a good time today if it will cost more than you can afford.

Beneficial changes despite annoyance will be yours concerning a trip.

LIBRA: At last some cherished idea that you have had for some time about your duties is becoming a reality. You will have more social invitations than you will be able to accept today so be selective.

SCORPIO: A troublesome situation at your job can turn out to be just the opportunity you've been needing to show your talents.

SAGITTARIUS: You would be wise to depend more upon outside experts and associates where your work is concerned. Show your attachment now that you have a spirit of adventure.

CAPRICORN: You will have many ideas that are good for you at your work and would be wise to express as many of them as possible. Use the advice of those you feel will be helpful to you.

AQUARIUS: Money from an expected project has been held up but will soon be released. You will be able to meet with chambers in the world of entertainment and recreation and have a wonderful time.

PISCES: Your creative ideas at work now are excellent but it will take them a while to work out for you. A new undertaking that includes members of your family should be gone into thoroughly by you.

Leading players recover from injuries

By Reuters

TONI KURBOS — Striker for French first division side Nice, has been discharged from hospital following a bizarre incident last week when he was kicked in the head by his own goalkeeper Fabien Piveteau during training.

Kurbos, suffering from temporary amnesia, has no memory of the attack, but said he had forgiven Piveteau. Piveteau has been thrown out of the first team by manager Pierre Alonzo, although he remains at the club.

The French league's reputation for producing the unexpected was proven elsewhere at the

weekend when Marseille's injured striker Jean-Pierre Papin scored two goals against St. Etienne with a steak wrapped round his foot to ease the pain. This rare achievement took Papin's tally this season to nine.

Marseille's goalkeeper Gaetan Huard is recovering after swallowing his tongue following a bad clash with St. Etienne's striker Bernard Mendy. "The doctor saved my life," Huard said. "I was suffocating."

European Cup champions AC Milan, already plagued by injuries, have suffered another setback.

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American League baseball roundup

TORONTO (AP) — Nelson Liriano hit a two-out, two-run double in the 13th inning and the Toronto Blue Jays rallied twice Tuesday night to beat the Boston Red Sox 6-5 and hold their two-game lead in the American League East.

Toronto, which scored the tying run in the 10th inning on Ernie Whitt's two-out single, stayed ahead of Baltimore. The Blue Jays are 13-4 in extra-inning games. Boston had its four-game winning streak stopped and fell 9½ games back.

In other American League games Tuesday, it was: Baltimore 6, Detroit Oakland 5, Cleveland 1; California 7, Minnesota 3; Kansas City 5, Chicago 3; and Texas 5, Seattle 3.

White Sox, mired in a 2-for-28 slump, hit a sacrifice fly in the Boston 13th for a 5-4 lead. But Rance Mulliniks drew a leadoff walk in the Toronto 13th from Greg Harris and Tony Fernandez singled with one out.

Harris' wild pitch moved the runners into scoring position and Kelly Gruber hit a grounder to third baseman Boggs, who threw out pinch runner Rob Ducey at the plate. Lee Mazzilli walked to load the bases and Liriano doubled off the right-field wall on an 0-2 pitch.

Harris, who also blew a one-run lead in the 10th, took the loss and fell to 2-2. Tom Henke, 7-3, got the victory.

Athletics 5, Indians 1

Mike Moore pitched four-hit ball for eight innings and Jose Canseco and Dave Parker hit consecutive RBI doubles in the fourth inning as the Oakland Athletics beat the Cleveland Indians.

Oakland won for the second straight time since being swept in three weekend games at Boston. The A's held their 2½-game lead in the American League West.

Angels 7, Twins 3

Chuck Finley won for the ninth time in 11 starts, beating the Minnesota Twins and keeping the California Angels within 2½ games of Oakland in the American League West.

Royals 5, White Sox 3

Willie Wilson and Danny Tartabull each drove in two runs and the Kansas City Royals, helped by four Chicago errors, beat the White Sox to stay 3½ games behind in the American League West.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TALK TO ME PARTNER

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 6 5
♥ K 9
♦ A 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 5
EAST
♠ A 9
♥ 10 8 4 3 2
♦ J 8 7 6 3
♣ A
SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ A Q J 7
♦ K Q 10 5 4
♣ K J 3

The bidding:
East 3 ♠ South 4 ♠ West 4 ♠ North 5 ♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

For optimum defense, partners must be able to "talk" to each other. Since the laws of bridge forbid them from doing so orally, they must make the cards they play do their work for them.

South's four-club bid was the Fishbein Convention, a takeout bid that has fallen into disfavor in most parts of the world. Certainly, the final contract was excellent.

West led the ace of spades, and

East took time to consider his play. If West held a second spade, declarer had no more. If West held a singleton ace (a possibility in spite of his raise), then there was no need for East to encourage with a high spade because West wouldn't be able to continue the suit anyway. Therefore, East decided to use a suit preference signal at trick one. He knew that, left alone, his partner would have to guess which red suit to lead, so he decided to help him out. He followed to the first trick with the two of spades—a request to partner to lead the lower of the side suits, in this case diamonds.

Since declarer had to have a singleton spade because of East's preempt, West realized that his partner's device was a suit preference signal. He dutifully shifted to a diamond, and declarer didn't stand a chance. He tried valiantly by winning in hand and leading a low club, but West could not go wrong even had he wanted to. In with the ace of clubs, on which partner started an echo to show three trumps (the reverse of giving count in the side suits), his diamond continuation allowed East to ruff for a one-trick set.

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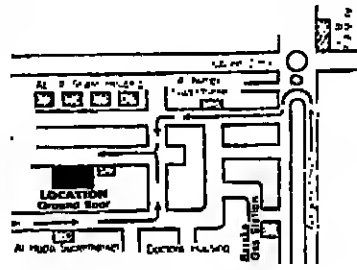
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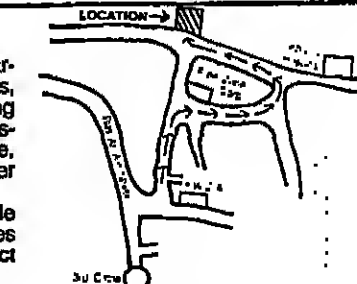
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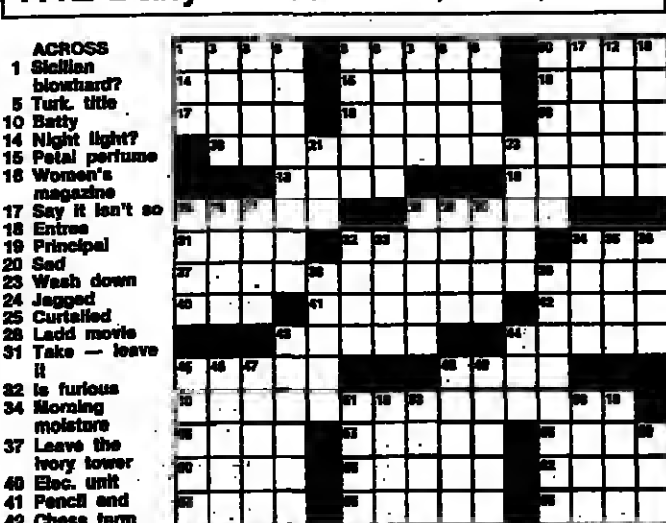
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THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers

1. Conclusion	34. Dreamy	45. Potato state	51. Uses a
2. off (begin)	35. Ma Kett	46. situation	52. Journey
3. Faux pas	36. Sheepen	47. (puzzles case)	53. Partial
4. At all	37. Ruse	48. Nobel for one	54. Escapade
5. Piece of	38. deposit	49. Mail U.	55. Apocryphal
6. In second	39. Cupid	50. You go	56. Pasture
7. RPI e.g.	40. Drinking spree		
8. Hedgepodge	41. Four-in-hand		

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Tom Hanks
in
DRAGNET

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DEADLY PURSUIT

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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

SILK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



Indian soldiers waiting to go home

India halts operations in war-torn Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Indian peacekeeping soldiers on Wednesday halted military operations in their two-year-old battle against Tamil rebels, as another 53 people died in ethnic violence.

The government said the victims of the latest spasm of violence included seven family members shot and hacked to death by suspected extremists from the island's ethnic Sinhalese majority.

India's suspension of military operations at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) Wednesday was part of an agreement signed earlier this week with Sri Lanka, calling for all 42,000 Indian soldiers to withdraw by Dec. 31.

Tamil rebel groups, including the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, have said they will honour the cease-fire.

But Lieutenant-General A.S. Kalkat, the commander of the Indian troops, said his forces will take any action needed to maintain law and order in the northern and eastern parts of the island, where they were deployed in July 1987 to supervise an arms surrender by Tamil guerrillas.

By mid-afternoon Wednesday, Sri Lankan army officials and residents in the Tamil-dominated northeast province said Indian soldiers were patrolling the towns, but there were no reports of confrontations.

Indian troops have on at least three previous occasions temporarily suspended military operations against the Tamil rebels. For the first time, the cease-fire that began Wednesday will be monitored by an observer group headed by Kalkat and the Sri Lankan army commander, Hamilton Wanasinghe.

India dispatched its peacekeeping soldiers to Sri Lanka in July 1987 to supervise a peace accord that offered the Tamil rebels limited autonomy if they would lay down their weapons and end their fight for an independent homeland in the northeast.

But the Tamil Tigers rejected the accord, saying it did not meet their expectations, and turned their guns on the Indian soldiers.

The presence of the Indian soldiers and the government's peace offer to the Tamils also triggered a campaign of political killings by Sinhalese extremists. They contend that the Sinhalese-dominated government had offered too many concessions to the minority Tamils and had compromised the nation's sovereignty by inviting Indian soldiers to Sri Lanka.

Sinhalese extremists belonging to the ultranationalist People's Liberation Front have been accused of killing government officials and security personnel as well as politicians and civilians who are not sympathetic to their cause.

On Tuesday night, suspected Sinhalese radicals shot and hacked to death five children between the ages of three and 12 and their parents in Ratnapura district, 70 kilometres southeast of Colombo, a government communiqué said. The attackers then set fire to the house, it said.

Military officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules blamed Sinhalese radicals for the attack because the father was a police informant.

In Essella village in Gampaha district 24 kilometres northeast of Colombo, security forces found the bodies of 35 people, including five Buddhist monks and six women. The military officials blamed the killings on pro-government vigilante groups seeking revenge for the burning of an army officer's house Monday.

Other victims included a reporter for the government-owned Lake House newspaper group, five suspected Sinhalese militants killed by security forces and five Sinhalese civilians killed by extremists, the officials said.

Baker said any increase in U.S. assistance to Poland and Hungary, which are veering away from Marxist economies, depended on the changes undertaken in the two East European countries. "We shouldn't be mistaken" and think U.S. aid could overcome their problems, he said.

And Baker said, it was the Soviets "turn to move" on reducing troops and non-nuclear armaments in Europe.

On negotiating arms control with Moscow, Baker said, "we have to be careful not to become frantic..."

However, Baker said he would propose to Shevardnadze ways to break a 15-year impasse on verifying the size of U.S. and Soviet underground nuclear tests.

In addition, he said, "we have, I think, a reasonable shot at an agreement to exchange data on chemical stocks, which I think is a first practical step toward achieving real controls and eventually a total ban."

Baker expects chemical weapons accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that he hopes to conclude a chemical weapons agreement with the Soviet Union this weekend and make headway on other arms control fronts.

Baker, in his first Washington news conference in eight months in his job, sought to reverse growing criticism in Congress and elsewhere of the cautious approach U.S. President George Bush is taking in response to foreign policy initiatives from Moscow.

He accused the Senate's Democratic leader of playing politics with the issue.

Last week, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who will meet with Baker in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Friday and Saturday, accused the administration of "timidity" on arms control issues.

Senate majority leader George Mitchell said Monday that the administration had failed to encourage change in the Eastern bloc and was "feeling almost nostalgic about the cold war."

Baker fired back Tuesday saying that Bush had a 70 per cent public approval rating on his foreign policy and he was not surprised that the Democratic leader was critical of the Republican president's ways.

And yet, in several of his replies to questions, Baker stressed the cautious stance taken by the administration towards Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would be maintained.

Baker lowered expectations that he would set a date with Shevardnadze for a summit meeting between Bush and Gorbachev. He said only that the subject would be thoroughly discussed at Jackson Hole.

Aid to East bloc

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On negotiating arms control with Moscow, Baker said, "we have to be careful not to become frantic..."

However, Baker said he would propose to Shevardnadze ways to break a 15-year impasse on verifying the size of U.S. and Soviet underground nuclear tests.

In addition, he said, "we have, I think, a reasonable shot at an agreement to exchange data on chemical stocks, which I think is a first practical step toward achieving real controls and eventually a total ban."

On another arms control front, Baker said the administration no longer would seek a ban on U.S. and Soviet long-range mobile missiles. He urged Congress to provide funds for development of the single-warhead Midgetman.

Specialists believe Gorbachev has equipped Shevardnadze with new ideas for cuts in strategic arms. Bush, meanwhile, is under pressure to respond more warmly to the dramatic changes under way in the Soviet Bloc.

"It would be customary" for Shevardnadze to hand Bush a letter from the Soviet leader, and "Gorbachev being Gorbachev, it would not be too surprising for it contain some dramatic proposals," said one U.S. official, speaking on condition he not be further identified.

Several steps

Although sticking points are likely to remain in the proposed strategic arms reduction treaty (START), Shevardnadze and Baker are expected to announce several important steps on other topics, including:

— An "agreed statement" expanding superpower human rights dialogue from such traditional areas as emigration to new topics involving cooperation on occupational safety, the environment and criminal law.

— An agreement on determining the chemical weapon stockpiles of each side, preliminary to a multilateral agreement sharply curbing the production or possession of such arms.

— A protocol on verifying treaties signed in 1974 and 1976, but never ratified by the U.S. Senate, barring each side from testing nuclear devices of greater than 150 kilotons.



Nationalist protests in the Baltic republics are Gorbachev's biggest anxiety

Gorbachev offers Soviet republics more power

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is offering Soviet republics more power to decide issues at home, but he says the Kremlin will not tolerate anarchy or what he calls separatist demagogues.

Gorbachev spoke Tuesday at a Communist Party Central Committee meeting on ethnic problems that have resulted in more than 200 deaths since last spring, the virtual blockade of one republic, and calls for outright independence from Moscow.

The 251-member Central Committee resumed its debate Wednesday, the official TASS news agency reported.

The policy-setting committee is considering a document that is a blueprint for ethnic relations under Gorbachev's policy of restructuring Soviet society.

The Soviet leader urged Soviets "not to give in to demagogues" with slogans "served under the pleasant guise of independence, secession, etc."

In its first decision Tuesday, the Central Committee backed Gorbachev's proposal to hold the next party congress ahead of schedule, in October 1990. Congresses are held every five years and the last one opened Feb. 24, 1986.

A Congress would give Gorbachev the broadest possible opportunity to remake the party leadership. It is theoretically the most powerful party body, responsible for broad policy outline as well as electing the Central Committee.

Since the 1986 congress, Gorbachev has been able to demote Central Committee members or promote candidate members to full membership, but only a congress can give him an entirely new Central Committee.

Gorbachev said many Communist Party members cannot keep up with the rapid pace of change in Soviet society engendered by his reform programme. Renewal is necessary all the way up to the Central Committee level, he said.

Gorbachev Tuesday echoed a Central Committee warning to the three Baltic republics in August, saying calls for independence are "irresponsible gambling with the destinies of the people."

Addressing the increasing demands in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to recognise that they were forcibly absorbed by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin as World War II broke out, Gorbachev said Stalin's policy were wrong.

But he also said that the Baltic republics joined the Soviet Union voluntarily rather than face Adolf Hitler's Nazi forces alone.

A frustrated Gorbachev recounted the ways the Kremlin has tried to bring peace to the Caucasus mountain republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where Soviet officials say the current situation is more tense than at any time during an 18-month stand-off over control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Kremlin has imposed direct rule on the region to no avail, and Gorbachev said the party was contemplating "resolute measures" to quell the violence.

"We cannot allow anarchy, let alone bloodshed," he said.

The republic of Armenia has lobbied for the right to annex Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan because most of the people living there are Armenians.

Even as Gorbachev spoke, TASS reported that two Soviet policemen had been killed by a mob in an Azerbaijani village located on a blocked road to Nagorno-Karabakh. More than 100 people have been killed in the past year-and-a-half in that region alone.

Cambodians prepare for fighting

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia (AP) — Vietnamese troops are to begin their declared final pullout this week, but many observers fear they will simply be leaving the battlefield for fierce fighting.

In an interview, Vietnam's ambassador to Phnom Penh, Ngo Dien, said the guerrillas were preparing to take advantage of the pullout by hauling weapons on their backs and on bicycles from the Thai border to Cambodia's interior.

"After the withdrawal, the three factions will try to gain something on the battlefield," he said.

Vietnam, which invaded Cambodia in late 1978, said it will withdraw its last 26,000 troops over six days starting Thursday — though the guerrillas charge the pullout is a fake. If it is genuine, it would leave the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government battling the Khmer Rouge and two weaker guerrilla groups.

Major Kan Seng, the provincial military chief in Kompong Speu, said Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked four villages in the north two weeks ago and his forces counterattacked. He said 25 guerrillas and three of his troops, including his brother, were killed.

A huge explosion rocked the province about the same time. But Kan Seng said it was caused not by the guerrillas, but by an accidental combustion of petrol and a B-40 rocket round that his troops were transporting.

One soldier died and 300 tonnes of arms went up in flames, he told two visiting foreign journalists.

Kompong Speu is just west of Phnom Penh and is a vital buffer between the capital and the Western provinces bordering Thailand that are most plagued by guerrilla activity.

The Kompong Speu military chief said there were only 400 Khmer Rouge in the province, hiding in the forests and surviving by banditry. He claimed most clashes lasted no more than 15 minutes, although wounded fighters at the hospital described battles that sounded bigger.

The commander said he stepped up recruitment and was forming new units to replace the Vietnamese, who have been returning home since 1987 and now were posted only around the provincial town.

He said the guerrillas are trying to break through the defence line

at the frontier and seize some districts or provinces.

"They may seize some places but they cannot keep them," he said.

Soviet Ambassador Rashit Khamidov said his country was continuing arms supplies to Phnom Penh in accordance with their agreement. But he denied guerrilla charges that it has increased supplies to compensate for the Vietnamese pullout.

Many Cambodians are relieved at the departure of the Vietnamese, with whom there has been historic animosity, but also worried that this may open the door for the Khmer Rouge.

"A lot of people in Phnom Penh are afraid of Pol Pot (the Khmer Rouge leader) because they don't know the real situation," said Thlang Sarun, an official at the state news agency S.P.K.

"They listen to the Cambodian reactionary radio and the radio always says they are taking towns... and killing Vietnamese troops every day," he said.

Officials said some Phnom Penh residents were stocking rice in case the guerrillas cut off supplies, and others were hoarding gold and money to buy their way out of the country if necessary.

44th General Assembly opens; Nigerian assumes presidency

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— A former U.N. peacekeeping soldier, Major-General Joseph Garba of Nigeria, took over the presidency of the 44th General Assembly that opened Tuesday, a session that is expected to dwell on peacekeeping and social issues.

In a news conference just before the assembly opened, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar observed: "The General Assembly has an agenda which is a kind of a marvelous menu, in which everything is contained..."

"I think that in the present General Assembly there are subjects of great importance politically. There is Namibia, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Western Sahara, Central America, and Cyprus," said the U.N. chief.

"On the social aspect, I think it is extremely important that this year the General Assembly gives importance to real social questions. Not only human rights,

which always is reserved in first place in our concerns, but the environment, AIDS, and terrorism," said Perez de Cuellar.

Garba, the 46-year-old Nigerian U.N. ambassador, was unanimously acclaimed as the new assembly's president. He is a former foreign minister of Nigeria, and since 1984 has actively campaigned against apartheid, South Africa's system of racial segregation.

Garba has chaired the U.N. Special Committee against Apartheid and the U.N. Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Under a system of rotating regional representation, the African nations nominated the assembly's leader this year. They favoured Garba over Paul Enjo, the ambassador of Cameroon, a French-speaking country.

In the past two days, Perez de Cuellar and departing General Assembly President Dante Capu-

to of Argentina, have both said that in the past year or so it has become evident that the cold war between the superpowers has ended, opening the door to international cooperation.

Over the last two years, the Soviet Union and the United States have cooperated in U.N. plans for the Red Army withdrawal from Afghanistan, and to encourage South Africa to grant independence to Namibia in conjunction with the pullout of Cuban troops from Angola.

Garba warned that that theme, and challenged the United States and Soviet Union to build on their achievements, calling on them to complete their treaty negotiations to cut their strategic nuclear stockpiles by 50 per cent.

He also called for an immediate moratorium on nuclear testing by all nations, and urged the nations of the world to ban the use, the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

COLUMN

Drug trade spoils — finders keepers?

HOUSTON (AP) — A U.S. marshal apparently has issued himself a \$55,000 Mercedes-Benz seized in a drug bust for use as a company car, a newspaper reported. The car that has been driven to and from work by Basil "Stu" Baker, U.S. Marshal for the southern district of Texas, was seized last year from a Jamaican drug dealer, the Houston Chronicle reported. The report cited unidentified sources in the marshal's service. The 1988 gold-trimmed Mercedes, equipped with a cellular telephone, is owned by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and is on loan to the marshal's service. Spoils of the illegal drug trade seized by authorities are not intended for use by administrators, said Jim Griffith, an official with the seized asset division of the U.S. Marshal's Service. Seized property usually is auctioned and the proceeds used to buy equipment for Federal drug agents. Marion Hambrick, special agent-in-charge of the DEA office in Houston, said DEA policy prohibits assigning luxury cars to its administrators. However, Hambrick said he asked that the Marshal's Service assign the Mercedes to an administrator in that agency to lessen the risk of its being damaged. There was no immediate comment from Baker, whose secretary said he was out of his office and will not return until Sept. 25. Under federal law, the DEA and other federal agencies may seize cash and other property from suspected drug dealers. The Mercedes was seized by DEA agents in August 1988 from the Houston residence of Claccon James, a Jamaican drug dealer later convicted of federal drug charges in McAllen and Florida.

Chip shop owner claims record

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian chip shop owner claims to have set a world record for frying chipped potatoes, the nation's favourite snack. Patrick Salembier, 28, said Monday he served up more than four tonnes of chips in a non-stop 111-hour fry-up last week at his shop in Waardamme, northern Belgium.

Dial-a-porn firm fined

WASHINGTON (AP) — A California company whose sexually-oriented telephone messages were called repeatedly by a 16-year-old boy will have to pay a \$600,000 fine under a U.S. government order. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in affirming a 1988 preliminary ruling against Intercambio of San Jose, California, said the company had not prevented minors from listening to the sexually explicit material and had not prevented telephone calls from other states, as required by law. The commission's investigation "found the evidence conclusive that Intercambio's messages were obscene and that it had in fact operated in violation of" the law, the commission said. So-called "dial-a-porn" companies make available sexually explicit messages on telephone numbers that are widely advertised. Listeners' charges are added to their telephone bills. The FCC said the complaint that prompted the investigation came in 1987 from a woman who said her 16-year-old son was dialing the phone service. According to a commission report, the mother said her son, who was seeing a psychiatrist, placed more than 280 calls to various companies with the explicit recorded messages during a 2½ month period.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	18	14	14	14	14	14	14
ATHENS	18	14	14	14	14	14	14
BAHRAIN	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
BANGKOK	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
BUENOS AIRES	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
CAIRO	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
CHICAGO	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
COPENHAGEN	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
FRANKFURT	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
GENEVA	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
HONG KONG	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
ISTANBUL	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
LONDON	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
LOS ANGELES	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
MADRID	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
MEXICO	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
MONTREAL	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
MOSCOW	08	08	08	08	08	08	08
NEW DELHI	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
NEW YORK	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
PARIS	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
ROME	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
SYDNEY	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
TOKYO	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
YENNA	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

M - indicates missing information

Bhutto too busy to mark only son's first birthday

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's best-known baby turns one Thursday but his mother has no time to organise his birthday party.

Benazir Bhutto is too busy being prime minister to 107 million Pakistanis.

"I'm missing my baby very much at the moment," Benazir Bhutto confided in an interview in Islamabad. "I have asked one of my relatives to arrange a little birthday party for him in Karachi."

Billawal Zardari was born eight weeks before his mother's triumph last November in Pakistan's first openly-contested elections for 11 years. He lives in the port city of Karachi with his father, Asif

Zardari. Bhutto spends most of her time on the move or in Sind House, a sprawling mansion overlooking the National Assembly building in Islamabad.

She visits him at weekends, when she can get away from the capital, a two-hour flight away.

"I thought it better for the baby to be there, I didn't want to leave him alone at the house (here) because I'm always travelling to some other place," she said.

"He always smiles when I come. I think children have this natural love for a mother, because I'm hardly ever with him, but when I see him his face lights up and he wants to come to me," Bhutto said.

Laughing at her own maternal pride, she added: "The last time I was in Karachi, he took

his first steps alone, without holding onto a bed or holding onto any rail."

On a more serious note she added: "I think that this government has given a role model not only for Muslim women in Pakistan but for women in the entire Muslim World... to demonstrate that a woman can combine a home and a career. I think that it has motivated many women."

How does the world's first Muslim woman elected leader, at 36 the youngest prime minister of a major country, cope with the pressure of office?

"Working is the best relaxation," she said. "Sometimes I get a little tired. If I have six hours (sleep) several days running I get a little tired, I need seven hours."